

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 34

MONDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2013

www.saipantribune.com

75¢



POLL RESULTS

Do you support postponing this year's scheduled 50-cent minimum wage increase in the CNMI?

Yes	54
No	146
Undecided	7
No opinion	5

Sunday, February 3, 2013

INSIDE

NATION



A White House draft bill would create a new visa for illegal immigrants.

► PAGE 14

ASIA



The death toll from a horrific bombing in Pakistan climbs to 81.

► PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE



Charlie Sheen pays for an injured teen's therapy dog.

► PAGE 19

New date set for Sen. Ayuyu's trial. PAGE 6
Kilili: US Senate VAWA doubles CNMI funding. PAGE 7

CHC lost 14 doctors in 2012

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 14 physicians left the Commonwealth Health Center in 2012, yet only one has been replaced to date.

RELATED NEWS

- » Healthcare Corp. to conduct survey on CEO's leadership. PAGE 3
- » Modification of MPLT, CHC loan agreement eyed. PAGE 3

Dr. Sharlene Osman, director for Medical Affairs, disclosed this startling fact to the board Friday, adding that the hospital remains at a very critical stage due to its continued shortage of physicians.

"We have to fill those holes. That's the only way to realize revenues [for the corporation]...We must employ doctors," she told the board.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO

Juan N. Babauta earlier said that the corporation currently has 20 mostly full-time doctors. Of the number, two are assigned at the Rota Health Center. Though he admitted the need to recruit more physicians, Babauta emphasized that the number is stable for now.

Osman pointed out, however, that until all doctor positions are filled, it will

See CHC on Page 4

Impeachment trial in March

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's trial at the Senate will not start until March, senators said. This comes after the Senate, by a vote of 8-0, adopted during its Friday session on Timian the rules that will govern the first ever impeachment trial in the history of the CNMI or any U.S. insular area.

Senate President Jude Hofsneider (R-Tinian) is now preparing a letter to the governor for release this week, and the initial plan is to give the governor a week to respond to the charges against him. He said as of yesterday afternoon, that letter has yet to be sent out to Fitial.

The one-week timeline for the governor to respond could start from tomorrow, since today is President's Day holiday, a no-work holiday.

Under the rules, the governor is prohibited

See IMPEACHMENT on Page 4

» Senators also confirm 5 Fitial appointees



A TEST OF SPEED

Male and female contestants devour the spicy burgers as fast as they can during a contest at the 9th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival. The celebration, held at the Kammer Beach, honors donni sali, a small but potent hot pepper that is indigenous to the island.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

See more photos on Page 8 and 9



From left, film director and producer Richard Martini, aircraft recovery lead investigator Michael Harris, CNMI Century Insurance's David Sablan Sr. and aircraft recovery specialist Capt. Paul H. Cooper pose for a group photo on Friday afternoon. Martini, Harris, and Cooper are on Saipan to try to solve the baffling disappearance of legendary aviatrix Amelia Earhart.

Earhart mystery takes 3 to Saipan

Saipan after they disappeared during their round-the-world flight in 1937.

Martini said there's over 200 islanders who claimed Earhart was here after 1937, and about a dozen U.S. Marines who claimed they found her plane on this U.S. island.

"Doesn't it make sense to follow the research to see if maybe she was here as opposed to where they have been looking in, in Nikumaroro, where there was no single eyewitness, where she was never in that direction?" Martini told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview on Friday afternoon.

Another group of experts is searching

See EARHART on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Local

House leadership hires Benavente as consultant

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives leadership hired former representative and lieutenant governor Diego Benavente as a consultant for two months for a \$7,200 contract or \$3,600 a month.

Benavente, in an interview, said his consultant contract is from Jan. 15 to March 15, meet-



Benavente

ing the 60-day limitations for retired government officials.

Among his duties is assist the House leadership with organizational matters, help individual committees and all other legislative matters.

The Constitution prohibits former government officials receiving pension from double-dipping for more than 60 days or two months in one

fiscal year.

Even after the contract expires, Benavente assured that he will still be active in politics. Benavente, a co-founder of the so-called Independent Republicans, is a staunch supporter of the movement to impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

"I never quit. I will continue to do what I can as a private citizen and as a consultant," Benavente told *Saipan Tribune*.

Benavente has over 15 years of experience as a lawmaker and a four-year term as lieutenant governor.

He served as a House member from the 7th to the 12th Legislatures, as well as during the 15th Legislature. In the 17th Legislature, he stepped down after serving half of a three-year

term. He was also former governor Juan N. Babauta's lieutenant governor from 2002 to 2006.

Former representative Joseph Palacios questioned Benavente's contract with the House

leadership, saying it may have been an unnecessary one. The contract amount is taken out of the leadership account, which is also used to fund House committee programs and activities.



UTILITIES ISSUES

Members of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications chaired by Rep. Lorenzo Leon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) meet with Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting executive director Alan Fletcher and Charles Warren about a host of CUC matters on Wednesday including utility rates, finances, services, and plans.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Kilili: It will be up to DOJ's Holder

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said it is up to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to look into allegations that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial did not renew the contract of acting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher in retaliation for testifying against a sole-source \$190.8-million power purchase agreement at the impeachment hearings.

Sablan said that filing charges against Fitial "goes all the way up to the highest authority in the U.S. Department of Justice...U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder."

In a Feb. 14 letter to Sablan, Senate President Jude Hofsneider (R-Tinian), and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), private citizen Glen Hunter urged these officials to call for an investigation by local and federal agencies into the "retaliatory tactics of the now impeached governor."

"There are whistleblower

laws that help keep people in Fletcher's position from being harmed simply for telling the truth when asked," Hunter said.

Sablan said that Fletcher spoke the truth but "right now, the atmosphere is if you speak the truth you're in trouble. I think people should speak the truth."

"Fortunately for us the public, unfortunately for the power-that-be, both men were unafraid to speak the truth and stand up to those who tried to bully them. I think it was a wrong decision to let both Mr. [Abe] Malae and Mr. Fletcher leave," Sablan said in an interview at his office.

He said Saipan is nearing 100 percent 24/7 water, and effectively managed millions of dollars of federal grants under Malae and Fletcher's leadership.

CUC is under the governor's control, since there remains no board of directors and the agency has been placed under a state of emergency.

The House impeached Fitial on 18 charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty last week. He is now facing a trial at the Senate. He is the first governor in the CNMI and any U.S. territory to be impeached.

Fitial had accused Fletcher

of lying to the impeachment committee.

The delegate also said both former CUC executive director Abe Malae and his successor, albeit in an acting capacity, Fletcher, "ushered in reliable power and vastly improved our water system." He said both Malae and Fletcher were assets to CUC and the CNMI.

"When [Malae] left, Mr. Fletcher picked up where Abe left off, carried the ball and continued great relations with the feds," Sablan said in an interview at his office.

He said Saipan is nearing 100 percent 24/7 water, and effectively managed millions of dollars of federal grants under Malae and Fletcher's leadership.

CUC is under the governor's control, since there remains no board of directors and the agency has been placed under a state of emergency.

The House impeached Fitial on 18 charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty last week. He is now facing a trial at the Senate. He is the first governor in the CNMI and any U.S. territory to be impeached.

"There are whistleblower



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Judge orders 2 lawyers to explain why they should not be sanctioned

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has ordered two lawyers representing former governor Pedro P. Tenorio and his wife Sophia Tenorio in a lawsuit against the owner of the defunct Hotel Riviera Saipan to appear in court and explain why they should not be sanctioned over the filing of separate documents within a 24-hour period.

In an order issued Friday, Camacho directed attorneys Daniel Stafford and Tiberius Mocanu to appear in court tomorrow, Tuesday, at 9am, to show cause why the court should not impose sanctions.

The judge warned that failure to appear may result in a bench warrant being issued and other sanctions.

"This court is very concerned

whether these two attorneys for the plaintiffs know what they are doing or are simply playing games," Camacho said.

According to court documents, on Thursday, Feb. 14, at 11:24am, Stafford, counsel for the Tenorio couple, filed a motion for preliminary injunctive relief and requested for an expedited hearing.

Stafford asked the court issue an order prohibiting Chang Shin Resort Saipan Corp., owner of Hotel Riviera Saipan, from leaving the hotel premises unsecured, and directing the corporation not to take any action that would damage the property.

In the alternative, Stafford asked the court to allow the Tenorio couple access to the property and allow their agents to secure

Later that day, at 4:07pm, Stafford filed a notice to withdraw the motion.

The following day, Feb. 15, at 10:59am, attorney Tiberius Mocanu filed a notice to substitute Stafford as counsel for the Tenorios, saying Stafford will be relocating off-island this month. Mocanu said the plaintiffs have consented to this substitution.

Later that day, at 3:03pm, Mocanu filed the same plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunctive relief that Stafford asked a day before to be withdrawn.

In his order to show cause on Friday, Camacho noted that all of the filings happened within a 24-hour period. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Healthcare Corp. to conduct survey on CEO's leadership

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CEO Juan N. Babauta's continued stay at the helm of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is now in the hands of employees of the CNMI's lone public hospital.

Board members on Friday decided to conduct an employees' survey to obtain personnel's input whether or not the board should terminate or retain Babauta's services.

The survey will be conducted at the Commonwealth Health Center and Tinian and Rota health centers simultaneously.

Babauta's \$96,000 annual contract is set to expire on July 9.

Board chair Joaquin Torres said it's high time to assess how the CEO has performed since the corporation took over the former Department of Public Health in 2011.

Whether Babauta has been an effective leader or not lies with what the personnel will say on the "confidential" survey forms, said Torres.

Torres appointed board vice chair Pete Dela Cruz to head the

committee for the CEO's evaluation, with three directors as panel members: Roy Rios, Anthony Aguon, and Anthony Raho.

Based on the one-page survey, Babauta will be rated by corporation employees on areas that include whether he established good rapport with staff, if he communicates with and works closely with the staff on matters of mutual concern, if the CEO establishes and implements with the medical staff an effective credentialing process, if he assists when appropriate with the development and revision of staff bylaws and related policies, and if he assists in determining community healthcare needs and in conjunction with the medical staff and assumes a leadership role in physician recruitment.

The survey forms must be completed and turned in no later than Feb. 28. Dela Cruz will man the survey on Rota while Aguon will take charge for the Tinian center.

Babauta may get the following ratings: outstanding, highly effective, effective, improve-

ment needed, unacceptable, and not applicable.

Dela Cruz said the special committee will meet on March 5 to interview management officials and key corporation units for their input and to provide further guidance to the board.

On March 6, the full special panel will deliberate on the results of the survey and will make a recommendation for full board action the next day, March 7.

Torres, after Friday's board meeting, said the board will make a final decision on Babauta's contract with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial making the final concurrence.

Babauta's contract will either be terminated, continued, or renewed for another year.

Dysfunctional

Torres admitted to being disappointed by all the revelations that surfaced during Friday's extended meeting.

Despite the arguments and disagreements, one thing that almost everyone agreed on is the "broken and dysfunctional"

they lack.

"We can't put [together] a business plan...because we're still in the red," said Babauta, adding that although the CHCC has \$3.6 million to pay for the principal amount of the MPLT loan, they cannot decide whether to pay it now due to emergencies that may happen at the hospital.

When asked what will it take to come up with a business plan, Babauta said the corporation would need to hire an expert to do the work. Due to funding constraints, hiring such a professional is not a priority for now.

management operation at the hospital.

Dr. Sharlene Osman, director for Medical Affairs, was vocal about her frustrations and disappointment over the lack of "linkage" between the administration and the hospital. The top management's failure to make decisions, she said, often puts the hospital in limbo.

Osman disclosed to the board that the management—whether it is human resources or whoever is responsible for recruitment—also sits on the applications of potential doctors and staff. Applicants' follow-up calls are not being answered, no response is issued, and no updates are given to the department that needs the staff, etc.

As a result, Osman said she was forced to turn to a Guam hospital for a critically needed physician last year. Her unit also needs a social worker, another position that has not been filled to date.

"It's not that people are not applying, but it's because the system here is broken," Osman said, adding that the potential applicant has submitted applications but has not been informed of anything by the corporation.

Management officials also expressed "confusion" as to who is responsible for staff recruitment.

Karen Buettner said she was surprised by expectations that

she is responsible for hiring physicians and other hospital staff, being the hospital services director.

COO Esther Muña said that, although a recruitment and retention committee has been established, the panel's job is merely to recommend to the CEO.

"We're not the ones who need to pick up the phone and start the hiring. HR processed the papers. The committee only makes recommendations to the CEO," explained Muña.

The board later learned that the corporation's HR manager quit last year and has not been replaced. The acting HR manager, who was not present at the meeting, received most of the blame.

Vice chair Pete Dela Cruz recommended to the CEO to take immediate action on the HR situation, saying the unit's flaws are gravely impacting the entire operation.

"What we have here is an assembly line that is broken and not working," lamented Dela Cruz.

Board member Anthony Raho described as "horrible" the "lack of information" coming out from the CEO's office

regarding matters like the pending loan request with the Marianas Public Land Trust, information that needs to be shared with the staff, and information that needs to be reported to the board.

Meantime, Buettner disclosed "overlapping and conflicts" of some jobs at the corporation, which she said is impacting operation.

When asked by Raho if she is getting the proper direction to effectively do her job as hospital director, Buettner did not respond.

Osman said that CHC is still providing way below the minimum standard care.

She believes the corporation has a lot to fix—both in the operational side and management side of the organization—before it can achieve the desired level of healthcare service. Among these is the "critical staffing" that CHC needs.

MICRONESIA RENT-A-CAR



BEST PRICE ON ISLAND!

Come over and see our fine selection of cars!

FREE PICK UP SERVICE
Call: 287-8484

Location: Garapan, across American Memorial Park or between Daycare and Dental Clinic

Some conditions and restrictions apply

Thai Massage Ayurvedic

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Get three (3) certificates for the price of \$50.00!

Call for more details

Open Daily from 11am to 11pm • Tel: 233-2249

2nd Floor, Winchell's Bldg, Garapan

Still Serving You!

Dr. David Khorram comes from Guam to Saipan every 2 weeks and continues to work with Dr. Robertson to provide excellent optical, medical, surgical, and laser eye care to the people of the CNMI.

- Listed in "Guide to America's Top Ophthalmologists"
- The CNMI's only Ophthalmologist (Board Certified – Score: Top 1% nationally)
- Researcher, Diabetic Retinopathy Research Network
- Published articles in international medical journals

Open six days a week, Mon – Sat, 8 am – 5 pm.

We welcome Aetna, Self-pay, Staywell, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and more!



Where Technology Meets Talent

235-9090

Walk-in's welcome
Beach Road Garapan.









MEDICAID PATIENTS ACCEPTED

WE ARE OPEN ON PRESIDENTS DAY

Two Convenient Locations

Navy Hill (CHC) Tel. (670) 323-5000/01 • Fax (670) 323-5011

Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm | Sat & Sun: 8am-4pm

Dandan (Joeten) Tel. (670) 235-6170/74 • Fax (670) 235-6180

Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm | Sat: 8am-4pm

PHI Pharmacy...the pharmacy you can trust!

VISIT YTT GELD Jewelry TODAY



Exchange your unwanted, damaged, outdated and worn gold for **CASH!**

■ Bring any **GOLD** items to our store in Garapan
■ Our Consultants will test and value your **GOLD** items
■ We will give you **CASH** on the spot!

Tel. No.: 233-2368 | Business Hours: 10:00am - 8:00pm | Sunday Closed
Located behind Duty Free and Star Sands Plaza

No guns at home, so Japanese shoot 'em up in Guam

By ERIC TALMADGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAMUNING, Guam (AP)—Their well-equipped arsenals offer everything from tiny revolvers (for ladies) to Berettas, Glocks, semi-automatic pistols and M16 military assault rifles. If kids can see over the counter, they are welcome too.

Forget the white sandy beaches, coral reefs and laid-back island culture. For many tourists from Japan, the biggest thrill is the chance to shoot a gun at one of Guam's ubiquitous ranges, dozens of which are tucked between upscale shopping centers.

The U.S. territory of Guam—a tropical island often described as a cheaper version of Hawaii—has long been the perfect place to put guns in the hands of tourists, especially from Japan, where gun ownership is tightly restricted and handguns are banned.

Despite a shared sense of shock over the recent rampage by a gunman at America's Sandy Hook Elementary School, the gun tourism business here is as brisk as ever.

"It was such a feeling of power," Keigo Takizawa, a 30-year-old Japanese actor, said after blasting holes in a paper target with a shotgun, a .44 magnum and a Smith & Wesson revolver at the Western Frontier Village gun club, a cowboy-themed indoor shooting range and gift shop on Guam's main shopping street.

"But," he said, "I still don't think anyone should be allowed to have one of their own."

Many Japanese see America's gun



In this photo taken on Monday, Feb. 4, 2013, Japanese tourists are taught how to fire a rifle by range master Mike Aeta at the Western Frontier Village range in Tamuning, Guam.

culture as both frightening and fascinating. Back home, the only people with handguns are in the military, the police or the mob.

Because guns are so hard to find, gun-related crime is extremely rare. They were used in only seven murders in Japan—a nation of about 130 million people—in 2011, the most recent year for official statistics. In the U.S., with 315 million people, there are more than 11,000 gun-related killings annually.

The Japanese are proud of their low crime rate and generally support tough gun-control policies.

But this Pacific island halfway between Tokyo and Honolulu is America. Guam's gun ranges are to the Japanese

what Amsterdam's cannabis cafes are to backpackers from the world over.

"I think it's human nature to be curious about something that is forbidden," said Tetsuo Yamamoto, a Japanese native who emigrated to the United States 30 years ago and runs the Western Frontier Village range. "Most of our customers are from Japan and have never had the opportunity to shoot a gun. It's very exotic for them, and it's very exhilarating."

So exhilarating that he sometimes asks his guests to stay around for a while to calm down after they've finished shooting.

Many other tourists—from South Korea, Taiwan and increasingly

nominees, the senators went into an executive session at the Tinian courthouse to discuss a special committee's proposed impeachment rules.

When the senators emerged from the executive session, they voted on the impeachment trial rules that Senate Vice President Ralph Torres's (R-Saipan) special panel worked on for days. The 8-0 vote came in at past 6pm.

Besides Torres, the other special committee members that recommended the rules' passage were Sens. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan), Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), and Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

Senators also agreed that the Senate president will be the only one to speak on behalf of the Senate regarding the Senate impeachment trial.

As of Sunday afternoon, however, the Senate has yet to release an official copy to *Saipan Tribune* of the impeachment rules that they adopted two days earlier.

The adopted rules are estimated to be 20 pages long.

Legal team

The Fitial administration also remains mum about the impeachment and the upcoming trial. The governor has not designated an acting press secretary; press secretary Angel Demapan is on leave for an off-island leadership training.

The administration also has yet to answer questions as to the composition of the governor's legal team, although there were unconfirmed reports that the governor has tapped lawyers from within and outside the CNMI.

By a vote of 16-4, the House impeached Fitial on almost all the 18 articles of impeachment on Feb. 11 and 12.

Russia—are less impressed. All South Korean men, for example, learn how to shoot during mandatory military service.

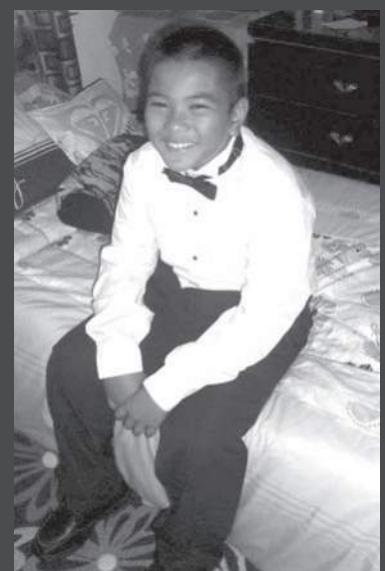
"To them, learning how to use a gun was a chore," said Patrick Chon, general manager of the Hafa Adai indoor shooting range. "It brings back bad memories. They hardly ever come here."

Visitors to his range are greeted by movie posters for "The Terminator" and "Die Hard," with their iconic, gun-toting action heroes. The Hollywood shoot-'em-up image is a common motif at many ranges, playing into an image of America that many Asians share.

"When most Japanese people think of American culture, one of the first things they think of is guns," said Natsume Matsumoto, a 38-year-old Osaka woman who said she enjoyed shooting so much she was back at a range for the second time in three days. "American movies and video games are full of guns and that's appealing, in a frightening sort of way."

"But I think Japan has it right," she added. "If you don't have a gun, you can't kill someone with it."

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



A belated happy birthday shoutout to Vicente Atalig Camacho II (also known as BOSS). Hope you have a wonderful day and God bless you! We love you! Greetings coming out from Mom, Dad, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

website, earhartonsaipan.com.

For the group, or at least for Harris who found the first sonar in the *Titanic*, the Earhart project has been a 30-year journey and counting.

The public is encouraged to help in this project by providing information about Earhart's supposed presence on Saipan in 1937 and onwards.

During this trip, they said they have received help from multi-awarded businessman David Sablan Sr., Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and other residents, including those who provided testimony to them claiming they saw Earhart.

The story about Saipan as Earhart's final resting place has been in circulation for decades. In 1966, for example, CBS correspondent Fred Goerner published a book claiming Earhart and Noonan were captured and executed when their aircraft crashed on Saipan while it was still under Japanese occupation.

EARHART

From Page 1

the Nikumaroro island, a tiny coral atoll some 300 miles southeast of Earhart's target destination, Howland Island.

Martini said their mission on Saipan is two-fold.

"One is we're looking for the plane. But we're also talking to natives and people from here or anyone who has a story of what it was like during the war on Saipan and/or if they have any information that they heard second-hand or from anyone regarding Amelia Earhart's presence here or a European woman or someone they thought was American and we found at least a dozen people here who are giving us new testimony that's never been recorded before," Martini said.

The group regularly uploads updates about their Saipan expedition on their

CHC

From Page 1

be difficult for the public hospital to achieve the desired "higher than minimum care."

Besides the shortage of doctors, Osman also bared recurring vacancies in other positions such as social worker, laboratory manager, and laboratory director, among other posts.

Hospital services director Karen Buettner also disclosed that the hospital has only two therapists (physical and respiratory) and one of them will be taking a maternity leave by end of March. Due to lack of physical therapists, the unit denied outpatient services to at least 20 referrals in January.

For respiratory therapy, Buettner said the unit needs two more FTEs to be adequately staffed for minimal overtime and transport cost, among other associated expenses.

The radiology department, meantime, may soon have no radiology specialist following report that its sole radiologist is set for leave soon. Two potential candidates from the private sector are being considered to temporarily fill this gap.

Buettner said other units currently at "dangerous staffing levels" include internal medicine, which needs two more doctors; labor and delivery, which lack midwife coverage every shift; and anesthesiology, when its locum leaves in April.

Buettner also reported that the hospital's orthopedic surgeon resigned last Feb. 4.

Besides an additional biomed and social worker for the dialysis unit, Buettner said they also lack a registered dietitian for Medicare compliance.

The repair and maintenance unit of the dialysis center also needs more people. It currently has only one.

Osman revealed that the unit's only biomed is also considering leaving due to his frozen salary for the last 20 years. "If he leaves, you will have no dialysis unit!" she told the board Friday.

As for the nursing department, nursing director Leticia Reyes told the corporation board that a total of 40 nurses resigned in 2012 due to uncertainties at the corporation.

As of December 2012, the department has 146 nurses after they successfully recruited 18 while 20 are pending. In January 2012, the department had 168 nurses.

‘\$86K fees, expenses for 2 other lawyers reasonable’

» Judge says legal counsels’ actions realized a savings of \$5.1M for Fund

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood

has approved the payment of \$86,469.11 in legal fees and expenses for the NMI Retirement Fund’s two other lawyers for the months of October through December 2012.

In an order issued Thursday, Tydingco-Gatewood said she finds the grand total of \$86,469.11 to be reasonable for the services of Daniel J. Berman and Braddock Huesman.

Berman’s legal fees are \$6,687; \$11,902.50; and \$24,500 for the months of October, November, and December 2012, respectively. He also sought payment of \$1.90 and \$810.21 as expenses for November and December respectively.

Huesman’s legal fees are \$14,418; \$14,500; and \$12,398 for the months of October, November, and December, respectively. He also asked for payment of \$169 as expenses for December.

The payment of \$86,469.11 is separate from the \$17,783 and \$12,507.06 in legal fees and expenses that the Fund’s trustee *ad litem*, Law Offices of Civille & Tang and its representative Joseph C. Razzano, is seeking for the months of November and December 2012.

For the months of September and October 2012, Razzano and the Tang law firm were paid \$60,949.83.

In her order Thursday, Tydingco-Gatewood directed acting Fund director Lilian Pangelinean to immediately remit \$86,469.11 from the Fund’s 2012 budget to the Fund’s trustee *ad litem* as payment for the services of Berman and Huesman.

The judge reiterated her earlier position that the NMI government is ultimately responsible for reimbursing the Fund for these funds.

Tydingco-Gatewood noted that the Fund’s trustee *ad litem*’s request for compensation for the month of November 2012 was emailed to the court and not filed in Betty Johnson’s court action.

She disclosed that during this time frame, the trustee *ad*

litem’s legal counsels successfully negotiated and executed renewal agreements for health and life insurance for government employees and retirees, and realized a savings of approximately \$5.1 million for the CNMI government, employees, and retirees.

Tydingco-Gatewood added that the legal counsels have expended a great deal of time managing and advancing the many litigation matters that involve the Fund.

The Fund is involved in 14 separate lawsuits.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she recognizes that the Johnson court action has generated widespread interest among the people of the CNMI.

“In the interest of public transparency, the invoices of legal counsel should be made available to the public,” she said.

However, the judge noted, the court must balance the public’s interests with the need to preserve the confidential communications between attorney and client and prevent disclosure of attorney work product and litigation strategy.

Accordingly, Tydingco-Gatewood said, the trustee *ad litem* is directed to review the invoices and make appropriate redactions as necessary.

The redacted invoices, she said, shall be filed by the trustee *ad litem* no later than 30 days later.

U Save Car Rental

#1 choice on Saipan with the **BEST** affordable rates on island!

We have Sedans, SUV's, Luxury Sedans, Trucks & more!

FREE pick-up and drop off service

989-4676 / 888-2205

Located in Chalan Laulau, Middle Rd.

Some conditions may apply



HANMI DONATION

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Nick Nishikawa, second from right, presents a \$1,000 donation to Saipan Senior Advisory Council president Maria Salina, right, at the Office on Aging on Feb. 13, 2013. Pictured from left are HANMI secretary Hiroki Sugie, HANMI vice chair Gloria Cavanagh, Council vice president MaryAren Conrad, Council secretary Ann Perry, Council treasurer Ana Nakatsukasa, Council member Benita Cepeda, Council member Paula Mereb, Council member Terry Satae, Nishikawa, and Salina.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Man gets 3 years in prison for sexual abuse of a minor

A 32-year-old man who was arrested last year with another man for having sex with a 14-year-old girl who later became pregnant was slapped with a three-year prison term.

In an order issued Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Leon Joaquin Sanchez to 10 years in prison, all suspended except for three years, with credit for time served.

Sanchez will start serving his sentence on Feb. 27, 2013.

He pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree as part of the plea deal.

Wiseman said the victim had relations with several other men and a plea deal would avoid subjecting her and her family to the stress and trauma of a trial.

The judge said Sanchez had stated that he loves the girl, intends to marry her, and support her and the child.

After serving his sentence, Sanchez will be placed on probation for five years. He was required to register as a sex offender, perform 100 hours of community service, and pay a \$200 fine, \$100 court assessment fee, and \$500 probation fee.

Upon the birth of the victim’s child, Sanchez will be required to submit to a paternity test. If determined to be the father, he is responsible for restitution to the victim for the medical costs as

sociated with labor and delivery. A detective stated in her report that the girl told a Division of Youth Services officer that she had sex with two men in the latter part of August 2012 and that one of them was Arriola.

The detective also disclosed that the girl confessed that Sanchez made her pregnant and that they have been having sex since late July 2012. (Ferdie de la Torre)

How’s Your Hearing?

Specializing in:

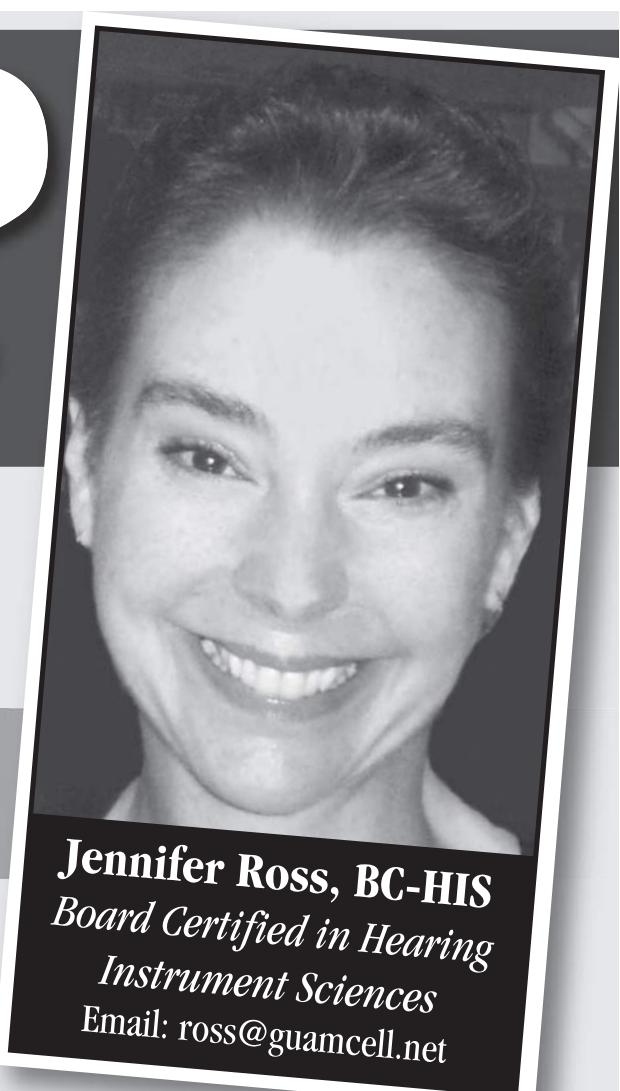
- Hearing Evaluations
- Custom fitted hearing aids
- Digital and Programmable Technology
- Custom Communication Devices

■ Friday, February 22nd 8:30am - 4:00pm
■ Saturday, February 23rd 9:00am - 1:00pm
at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan



Ross
Hearing
Aids

All interested patients should call
Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling
234-3925/7
Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid



Judge Manglona sets again new date for Sen. Ayuyu's trial

2012 MCS top student makes dean's list

A student who graduated at the top of his class last school year has made it to the University of Washington's Dean's List for Autumn Quarter 2012.

The Quarterly Dean's List includes the names of students who have attained a quarterly GPA of 3.50 in the final grades for at least 12 graded credits.

Billie Ocampo is Mount Carmel School's valedictorian in 2012. His inclusion on the university's Dean's List will be included in his permanent academic record.

Ocampo was informed of the good news in a letter from the university's interim dean, Rob-



Ocampo

ert C. Stacey, who commended Ocampo for his outstanding scholarship and dedication to his studies.

Ocampo is the son of Marida Pensader, the operations support manager for DFS Saipan Limited, who said: "Apart from his perseverance, I believe MCS had prepared him well to succeed."

MCS president and Ocampo's former AP English teacher Galvin Deleon Guerrero was very happy to hear the good news. "Billie was always a diligent student with great writing skills, and we are very proud of his accomplishments." (Moneth G. Deposa)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Department of Commerce regulations under Title 20, Chapter 20-40, **Global Insurance, Inc.** issues this **PUBLIC NOTICE** of its intent to petition for the release of its security deposit in escrow for Global Insurance, Inc. issued labor surety bonds.

Any objection to such release must be filed within one week from the date of last publication of this notice to the CNMI Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Capital Hill, Saipan MP 96950

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has once again set a new trial date for Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (R-Rota), who is facing two charges in an alleged conspiracy to bring eight dead Mariana fruit bats from Rota to Saipan.

In an order issued Friday, Manglona said that after the hearing last week, she discovered she has a scheduling conflict that will not permit trial to start on March 25, 2013.

Ayuyu's trial will now begin on April 1, 2013, at 9am.

"The delay between March 25 and April 1, 2013, is not excludable under the Speedy Trial Act," the judge said.

On Feb. 8, the prosecution and Ayuyu agreed to continue the trial set for Feb. 19, 2013. The counsels informed the court that the defense needs additional time to prepare based on new discovery, including grand jury transcripts.

The counsels also disclosed that an off-island U.S. government witness is unavailable in February because he has to care for his wife, who is recovering from surgery.

Manglona said Wednesday that because of these factors, the "ends of justice served by granting a continuance outweighed the best interest of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial." The judge then reset trial to begin on March 25, 2013, but then later discovered the court's

scheduling conflict.

The first indictment charged Ayuyu and Ryan James Inos Manglona with conspiracy to violate the Endangered Species Act and Lacey Act, one count of violating the Endangered Species Act, and one count of violating the Lacey Act.

The indictment alleged that on Oct. 17, 2010, Ayuyu and Ryan Manglona conspired to conceal

EMO warns of rough seas

A large swell and wind waves from the north and especially from the east will cause hazardous surf in the Marianas for the next several days, according to the Emergency Management Office yesterday.

EMO said that high surf and small craft advisories will be in effect until 6pm Wednesday.

A small craft advisory means that seas 10 feet or greater and sustained winds of 22 to 33 knots are expected to produce conditions hazardous to small craft.

"Along north facing reefs, expect hazardous surf of 7 to 10 feet for the next couple of days. Locally higher surf up to 12 feet is possible at some locations. Along east facing reefs, hazardous surf of 9 to 12 could build

to 12 to 14 feet on Monday and Tuesday. Surf should gradually subside by Thursday," the EMO advisory states.

Northeast winds of 15 to 25 knots will increase to 20 to 30 knots on Monday. Combines seas will gradually build to around 12 feet on Monday.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary exercise caution, especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets.

The public is advised to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and east facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. (EMO)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



We've always had fun, we always shared great times. I'm so glad you're a cousin of mine! Happy 10th birthday to my smart and lovely cousin, Charline Ebrou, who is turning 10 years old today. Greetings come from Ivan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday to Aaliyah Evangelista, who celebrated her special day on Feb. 15, 2013!

Happy birthday to my lil' pretty "sexy baby" Princess Aaliyah Robyn! We love you very much baby, we are so blessed to have you! So sweet, so loving, so caring. God gave us you and for that we are all blessed! Greetings come from your family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-13-015

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of fuel for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The purchase of approximately 18,000,000 – 20,000,000 US gallons annually of No. 2 Diesel Fuel Oil (also known as gasoil or Low Sulfur ADO for American Samoa and CNMI, as defined by US EPA) will be for the period starting May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **February 19, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-13-015, Supply & Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 08, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees. Note that the CNMI Government at present, exempts the fuel supplier from paying liquid fuel tax (currently, \$0.15/gallon).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **February 22, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

pering with a witness, suborning perjury, attempting to prevent testimony of a witness, obstructing the due administration of justice, and attempting to destroy or remove seized property.

The two cases will be tried jointly.

Ryan Manglona worked for the Rota Mayor's Office and was also assigned to perform duties on behalf of the Rota Legislative Delegation. He subsequently pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice.

Ayuyu, 48, pleaded not guilty to all charges. (Ferdie de la Torre)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

ARC Preparedness Health & Safety training set

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety training on the following dates:

- Feb. 20 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED
- Feb. 21 at 6pm: Adult First Aid/CPR/AED Blended Learning
- Feb. 27 at 6pm: Pediatric CPR/AED

Feb. 28 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED Blended Learning

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Blended Learning courses involve online courses with in-person skills exam. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. (PR)

Survivors and caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, Feb. 21, 2013, 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan' Chamolinian Room. The guest speaker will be Ronal Sablan, Medical Referral director, and the topic will be about "Medical Referral Policies Procedures...Updates." To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarinas@gmail.com. (CCA)

Air Force training at Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Feb. 19-20 and Feb. 22, from 9am to 2 pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 00' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 00' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising 14,000 nautical square miles of air-space that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. (PR)

NOTICE OF MEETING Northern Marianas College Board of Regents' Special Meeting



Date: Tuesday, February 19, 2013

Time: 10:30a.m.

Place: Northern Marianas College
BOR Conference Room
Saipan Campus

AGENDA

- I. Call Meeting to Order
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- II. Public Comment Period: Individuals may orally testify on items on this agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes.
- III. Old Business
 - a. WASC Accreditation Update
 - b. Performance Evaluation of the NMC President
- IV. Executive Session

(At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
- V. Board Meeting Assessment
- VI. Adjournment

/s/ Juan T. Lizama
BOR Chairperson

Date: February 12, 2013

Kilili: US Senate VAWA doubles CNMI funding

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) says he welcomes Senate passage last week of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. The bill doubles funding allocated to the Northern Mariana Islands for the Sexual Assault Service Program and contains several other provisions of specific benefit to women in the Northern Mariana Islands. The Senate passed the VAWA reauthorization in the last Congress also, but the Republican House refused to take action on the bill.

Overall, the VAWA reauthori-

zation significantly strengthens the ability of federal and local law enforcement and service providers to combat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The Senate passed its bill, S. 47, on Tuesday with a bipartisan vote of 78 to 22.

Sablan is an original co-sponsor of the same bill, H.R. 11, in the House.

"Increasing the funding for service providers in the Northern Marianas who help survivors of sexual assault has been my goal for some time," the

congressman explained. "In the last Congress I introduced H.R. 4195 for that one purpose; and I worked to have the funding increase included in the larger bills, H.R. 11 and S. 47, in this Congress."

In addition to the increased allocation for the Sexual Assault Service Program, the Senate bill and its House companion reauthorize STOP and Transitional Housing Assistance grants that the Northern Mariana Islands

also receives.

"Providing these services is truly a pressing need," said Sablan. "The national statistics are horrifying: one in six women will experience an attempted or completed rape at some time in her life; and most of those women will be younger than age 18.

"As many as in six in 10 victims are assaulted by a partner, relative, friend, or acquaintance, which makes it even more important to provide



Sablan

safe havens in our community."

Sablan has been working on these issues since he was first elected to Congress with the help of local advocates, such as the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. "The Coalition and executive director Maisie B. Tenorio have been great partners, letting me know what is needed to help individuals and families caught up in domestic and sexual violence.

"I think we can all be proud of the strides our community has made in confronting this problem—though we all know there is much, much more work still to do.

"Improving the flow of federal funding will remain part of our effort," Sablan promised.

The VAWA reauthorization passed by the Senate also makes a technical amendment to the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, which extended federal management of immigration to the Northern Marianas. Women who petition for status as victims of human trafficking or violence will be allowed to count the time lived in the Northern Marianas prior to the CNRA going into effect as time present in the United States. This will allow these women to more quickly adjust to a permanent immigrant status. (PR)

Rota Nat'l Park bill re-introduced

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has re-introduced a bill authorizing study of areas of Rota for designation as a National Park. The Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act has already passed the U.S. House of Representatives twice, once in the 111th and once in the 112th Congresses.

"Rota has archaeological, historical, and natural resources that are of national significance," Sablan said. "That was the finding of the National Parks Service reconnaissance team in 2005. And many of these resources are not found anywhere in the National Parks system. That means Rota deserves a more detailed 'feasibility and

suitability' study, which my bill authorizes. If the Parks Service finds that there are places on Rota that fit those criteria, then we could see a Rota National Park in the future."

Despite strong support in the House, the Rota Park study bill has not passed the Senate.

But both the new chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources, Oregon Democrat Ron Wyden, and his Republican counterpart on the Committee, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, have expressed determination to do better in this Congress. One plan is to move several small packages of bills, instead of trying to bundle lots of legislation in one large measure at the end

of this Congress.

In his introductory statement on the bill, Sablan said that one reason people on Rota support further study of the possibility of a national park is the potential economic benefit. "The economy of Rota, which could be developed around themes of eco-tourism, needs a high value destination that park designation would provide," Sablan explained. "The unique features of Rota could draw visitors from far and wide."

One such feature is ancient Chamorro sites that are particularly well-preserved on the island. "Remnants of their ancient settlements are found at several locations and include

the iconic latte stone houses. These consist of two parallel rows of limestone columns with each column supporting a hemispherical capstone upon which a wooden framed house was placed," Sablan said.

"A quarry for these columns and capstones is also among the archaeologically important sites that could eventually be part of a Rota National Park."

Another resource of national and international significance on Rota is the endangered Mariana crow, the *Aga*, and the native limestone forests that provide habitat for the bird. "This rare species is protected under both local and federal laws," Sablan said. "And its future could be further assured if areas of its already limited range were incorporated into a park." (PR)

2013 is the year of employment...YOUR employment!
No more excuses...take action now!

**JOB SEARCH AND ENTRY
LEVEL JOB SKILLS
TRAINING**



**IMPROVE CONFIDENCE
DURING INTERVIEWS**

THE BRIDGE PROJECT

Are you unemployed and want a better chance of getting hired?

Do you need help getting your resume ready?

Could you use help at being better prepared and becoming more confident for your next job interview?

WE CAN HELP!

The Bridge Project has helped over 130 NMI residents to date, why not you!
Are you ready to invest some time into improving your employment opportunities?
5 classes—3 hours per class—FREE!



EXCUSES

MAKE YOUR COMMITMENT and SIGN UP NOW

NMI Department of Labor Employment Services @ 664-3190

The Bridge Project @ 287-7037.

Or Sign up on our website

<http://bridge.marianas.us>

**Next class begins
Thursday, February 21
6:00 PM
Marianas Business Plaza
Room 604 (6th floor)
SPACE IS LIMITED**

The Bridge Project is funded through a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs and the NMI Department of Commerce

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-014**

**GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES
FOR CUC WATER & WASTEWATER FACILITIES, SAIPAN**

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms capable of providing Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water and Wastewater facilities in Saipan, in compliance with USEPA inspection and sanitary survey requirements.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of \$80.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-014, Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water and Wastewater facilities, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2013, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A mandatory pre-bid conference followed by a site visit is scheduled for January 31, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Saipan, to ensure prospective bidders are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions.

CUC will award a contract to more than one firm for said services, based on bids for "Service Section" pursuant to Scope-of-Work.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the site conditions in the course of bidder's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 8, 2013 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Paul Raczkowski, Water/Wastewater Manager via address paul.raczkowski@cucgov.org

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified applicants to apply for the following positions:

Accountant

Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work-related experience in general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Associate Editor

Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any other related course with at least 5 years experience, including newsroom management, story evaluation, and production. Must have strong rewriting, headlining, and proofreading skills and must be able to meet tight deadlines. Preferably with an extensive experience in sports writing.

Circulations Officer

Associates degree in Business Administration, Accounting or any related course. Minimum of 2 years work-related experience in a newspaper or magazine publication. Good oral and written communication skills and proficient in MS Word, Excel & PowerPoint. Must be self-motivated with strong organizational skills to help manage newspaper circulation assignments. Must have dependable transportation and able to work early mornings and evening hours.

Reporter

Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course with at least 3 years work-related experience; Above-average writing skills and a competent grasp of grammar and syntax; With rigorous standards for accuracy and detail; Ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; Knowledgeable in all types of writing, including news and features; With photography skills.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. office located at JP Center Building in Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, February 28, 2013.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply

9th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival

PHOTOS BY CLARISSA V. DAVID



Dancers of Saipan Music & Dance Studio strike a pose during their performance on Saturday.



Tinian resident Ryan Diaz gets a free flu vaccine from registered nurse Rodney Cabarles of Tinian Health Center.



Emcee LJ Castro shows one of the umang in the race event.



Staff of major sponsor IT&E smile for the camera at their booth.



Singers entertain the crowd at the festival grounds.



Division of Environmental Quality's Avra Heller educates her young audience about the importance of proper trash disposal.



Hedwig Hofsneider and Carl Nie pose for a group photo at the Northern Marianas College Access Challenge Grant booth.



Kaitlin Mattos of the Division of Environmental Quality's Coral Reef Initiative tells two young girls about the impacts of pollution to the environment.



Korean reporter Lee Hyo Sun reacts as she eats the hot pepper.

One of the activities featured at the Pika Festival is beach volleyball.



Members of the Tao Tao Taga Cultural Dance Group entertain the crowd with one of their island dance numbers during the 9th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Saturday night.



Female contestants munch their donni sali during the Hot Pepper Eating Contest.



Children enjoy themselves at the festival grounds.



Members of the Saipan Music & Dance Studio group groove to the beat Saturday night.



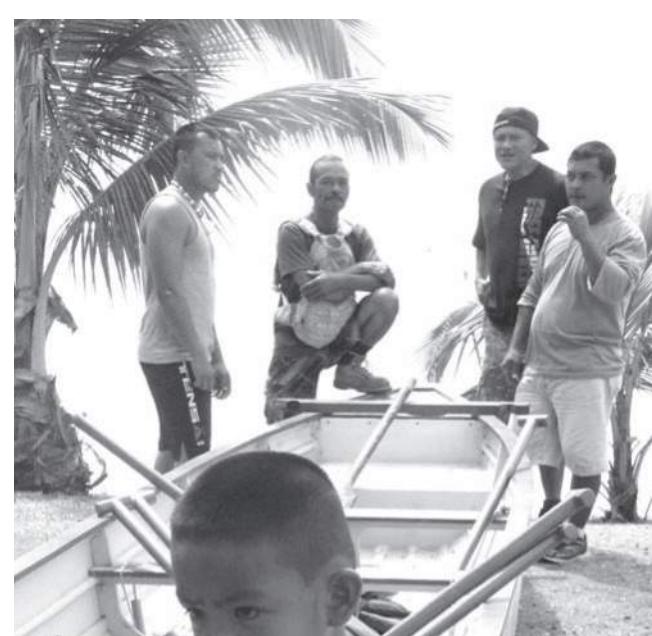
For their finale, the Tao Tao Taga Cultural Dance Group performed the much awaited fire dance.



Father and son tandem Julian and Brayden John Santos show their winning umang



Joe Sablan's one-man band serve as opening act on Sunday morning.



Zack's CD Rack owners Julian and Ajie Hofs Schneider with their son Jeremiah.



A man and his daughter visit the NMC-CREES booth to sample their healthy recipe of Chicken Primavera.



A young boy awaits the start of the Dragon Boat Race.

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 34

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Benedict leaves stage with dignity

By SUSAN REIMER

The Baltimore Sun

Susan Reimer is a columnist for the Baltimore Sun. Readers may send her email at susan.reimer@baltsun.com.



You have to wonder what kind of fun Vatican mystery writer Dan Brown would have with the startling resignation of Pope Benedict XVI.

As would be the case when any well-known CEO suddenly steps down "for health reasons," we are immediately suspicious.

Was he, like the last pope to step down voluntarily more than 600 years ago, simply the wrong man for the job? A shy and aging scholar overwhelmed by the demands of guiding the church through the scandals of sex abuse and money laundering, who was happier in the library than on the balcony at St. Peter's?

Or was there some dark conspiracy to put him in place just long enough for another prince of the church to be maneuvered into the role?

Or perhaps he is just a humble and decent man who had the grace to step aside when he became too old and ill to do the job properly?

I'd like to believe that is the case. That Pope Benedict has set an example for popes and others in power who stay too long at the fair: judges, senators, athletes. Those who keep a firm grip on the power and the glory instead of yielding to the inevitability of time.

Many of us thought pope was a job you stayed in until God decided on a change in leadership.

Certainly that was the example Pope John Paul II set. Terribly ill and crippled by Parkinson's, we watched him fade and die. But he saw his public suffering as testimony to his faith and devotion to the church, not as a hindrance to his job performance.

Pope Benedict was a reluctant inheritor of St. Peter's keys to begin with. He said he prayed during the conclave nine years ago that he not be chosen. He looked forward to a quiet retirement in his native Bavaria, where he would pray and write.

He will get a chance at the contemplative life now. A monastery is being refurbished at the Vatican where he will live in seclusion. But he is not simply quitting a job he never wanted in the first place.

He told an interviewer that a pope should never quit just because the job got to be too difficult. He should never flee controversy and leave it for the next guy to resolve. Instead, he said that the leader of the faith must be mindful when he can no longer call on body and spirit to help him bear the burdens of his office.

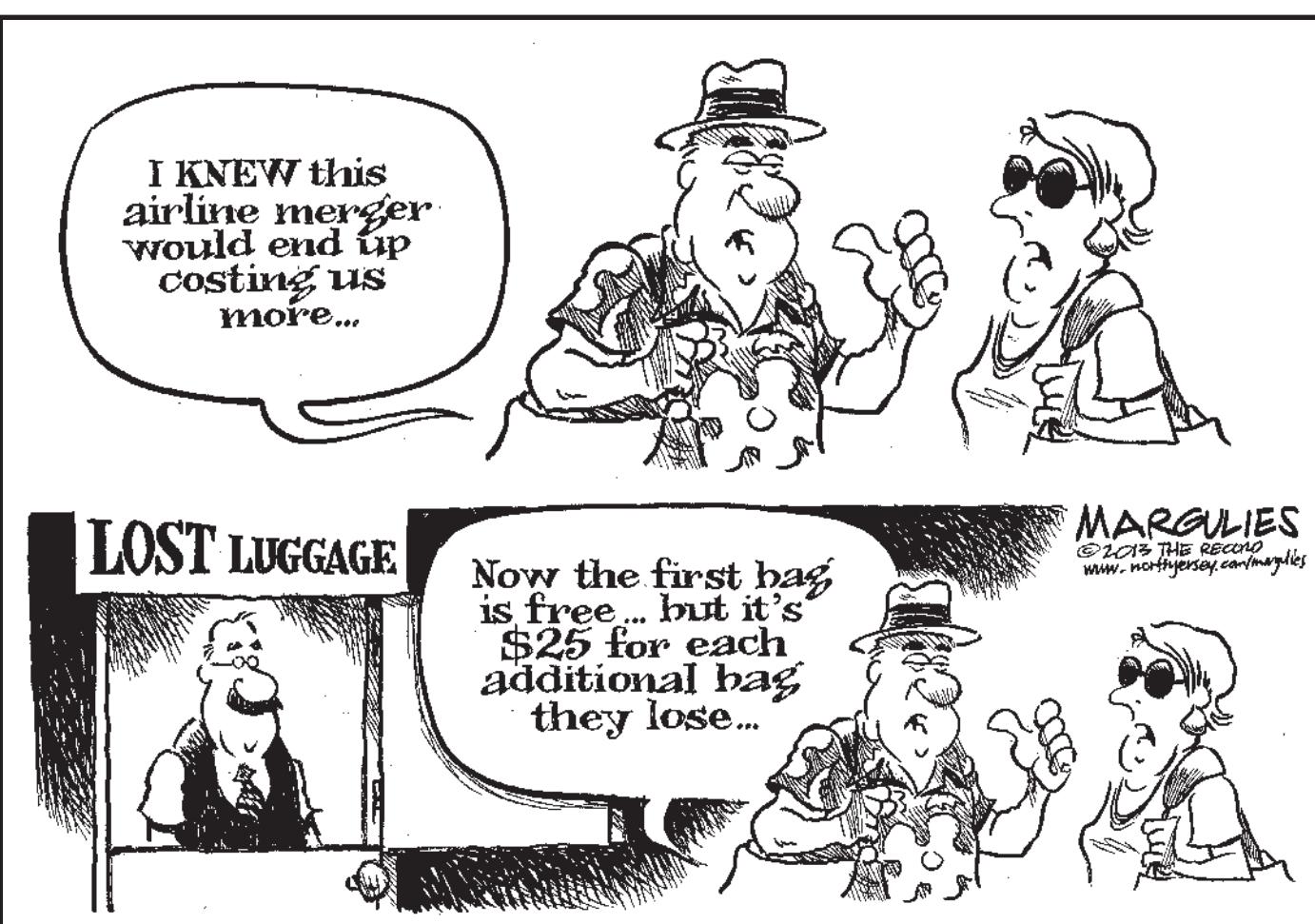
We need to recognize the example he is setting—not just as pope but as a man aging in office. No one knows better than we, ourselves, what it takes to do the jobs we do. He had the clarity of vision to see himself as he truly was, and the humility to admit he no longer had the strength or the desire to do what it takes.

Resignation or retirement are difficult transitions to manage from the inside.

Nobody asked Hillary Clinton to leave her post as secretary of state. In fact, I am pretty sure the president would have been glad for her to stay. But she was burned out and exhausted, and she stepped aside.

No one wanted Cal Ripken to retire, either. Even those who saw his skills erode with age would have wished to still watch him play. But he left the Orioles under his own speed. Barry Sanders left the Detroit Lions just shy of all-time rushing records, but he said his

See BENEDICT on Next Page



Irresponsibility in the CNMI

The major role of a government is responsibility to its people. The government's role is to fulfill the needs of its citizens in matters that it cannot do on an individual basis.

Thus we need the assistance of a government elected by us. For example, we need protection from people in our community who will use various means to achieve their objectives at our expense. We have people who will harm us, steal from us, cheat us, and lie to us. To protect us the government establishes a police department.

We need electric power for our homes and businesses. Again it becomes the responsibility of the government to create either a privately owned and operated utility company or one operated by the government. It is the government's responsibility again. This also includes waste management, medical care, and any other needs. Luckily we have the United States government who offers us protection from countries hostile to us.

Simply put, we elect officials who promise us that they are willing to assume the required and needed responsibilities to create a better community for us. However, when these promised responsibilities are shunned and used to further one's personal agenda, we must rebel and oust that individual. Thus we find ourselves in such a situation now. We are impeaching our governor who has promised much to us but has delivered only to his personal needs.

Over the years our needs have been sadly neglected and even deteriorated. I am not saying that the governor has caused all our problems. Certainly he has inherited many of them. But his major crime is his attitude to solving them. We have been repeatedly informed what these acts of irresponsibility are. There are 18 of them. They have carefully been reviewed by the House of Representatives who overwhelmingly voted that they are in fact accurate. Now these 18 acts of irresponsibility have been forwarded to the Senate for their final review and action. Should they also agree that what the House examined is true, then the governor will be impeached.

I feel that the governor has not been honest with us. He has constantly neglected to explain to the Legislature many of his actions. In fact he has openly feuded with some of them when they complained about his personal decisions. When he has felt threatened, he quickly declared "emergency powers." These mean that he is the only one that can handle the situation.

For example, if the deal with the power plant was such a good one for the community, why did he keep it so secretive? Had he been honest and truly responsible, he would have included the Legislature and us in the discussions. Finally all the fraud has been discovered. Instead of taking blame, he now points his finger at the then attorney general, who had to run away thereby becoming a fugitive from justice. Doesn't he know that whenever one points a finger at an accused, three or four fingers point back at the accuser?

Instead of getting involved with improving our medical facilities, he runs off to the United States or to the Philippines for his treatments. Is this what a responsible governor who has the power and authority to remedy the situation does? Was there

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



nothing he could have done by personal intervention? I feel that, with a strong desire and effort to rehabilitate our hospital from the governor, it could be improved.

I am not suggesting that the governor could have solved all the problems that beset us. But he could have cooperated better with the federal government, the Legislature, and us. I notice on the highways a sign that states: "Asking for help is not a sign of weakness." But it takes a man with courage and with a deep sense of responsibility.

Having been a part of the government including former speaker of the House for many years, the governor was part of the problems and part of any solutions. He has always known what his predecessors have done or not done to remedy the problems before the community. In fact isn't his campaign rhetoric full of promises and pledges of responsibility?

The saddest part of all this is that the governor has preferred to reclude himself from the community. He rarely has given public speeches to explain what he has done or the problems he faces. I feel that if he had only become a part of the community and discussed our needs and fears, we would have understood better any of his failures. But no! He has been above all of this. It is as though our father didn't care for us, except for only his aggrandizement.

Now that his neck is in the noose, he is saying he has done no wrong. But the vast majority of us have removed the veil over eyes which he so cleverly tried to place over them. We showed that insight and courage only a few months ago in the last election when we booted out most of his followers. We knew we needed a change.

We need a man who loves us as a father does his children. As a good father works long and hard to provide for his children, our governor must also do so. If not what good is he?

Let us pray that the new leadership will learn from the governor's mistakes and guide us to a better Commonwealth. We cannot undo the wrongs done to us, but we forge ahead with a determination and strength that will eventually cure most of our ills. The assistance is there. Diamonds are under our feet. Let us bend down and dig them up!

In conclusion, the CNMI is a great country and full of beautiful and good people. We need leaders for the people and by the people! Let us strive to regain our pride and dignity not only to our benefactor the United States and to the world but to ourselves. This is our hour of tribulation. How we deal with it will prove to everybody what kind of people we are. Viva the CNMI!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The humanity of US Presidents

It is Presidents' Day. Top ten on a survey list: 1) Abe Lincoln abolished slavery, 2) FDR got working America back on its heels, 3) George Washington created a citizen president, 4) Thomas Jefferson doubled U.S. size with Louisiana purchase, 5) common man Andrew Jackson proved humble beginnings hinders no one, 6) trust buster TR vs. corrupt business, also committed deeply to conservation, 7) Woodrow Wilson led America out of isolation, 8) Harry Truman made hard decisions including the use of the A-bomb, 9) James K. Polk acquired CA, NM, OR, as manifest destiny, and 10) Ike Eisenhower presided over America's post-WWII economic prosperity.

In the topography of consciousness, we delineate three sides of the same reality. One is the social process perspective that engages economic support of human existence, the political organization of decision-making, the cultural significance and meaning of every human endeavor, and to balance the process that impacts and deter-

mines actions and deeds.

Science of late has been pushing the second perspective, a planetary one that zeroes in on ecological state and well being of the earth, metaphorically rendered as the global brain in Gaia's journey. Since the blue orb created the celebrated image of the earthrise, this perspective has gained common currency.

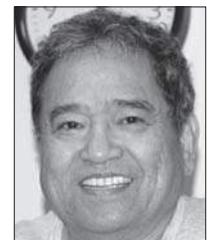
For example, groups of Christian faithful are engaged this Lent season in carbon fast, a conscious curtailing of carbon emission by prudent individual practices. With an Easter resurrection theme, measures like collaboratively planting trees are undertaken to create natural carbon-catching processes. In our own thinking, we refer to the social and planetary part of the trichotomy as eco-democracy.

The third category is the human, a 10,000-year journey in the backdrop of a 4.5-billion-year-old evolving planet, where the sense, feelings, thoughts, and resolve of a unit of consciousness has en-

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



tered the discourse of history, sociology, and psychology.

Enuff of the theoretics! Tuesday evening in America, President Barack Obama delivered SOTU 2013. How human is our President? He began with a JFK quote: *"the Constitution makes us not rivals for power, but partners for progress... It is my task to report the state of the union. To improve it is the task of us all."*

The president who spent most of his first term dealing with a recalcitrant and gridlocked Congress, he continued on a forceful and consistent "Yes, we can" theme.

In a literary cadence now familiar to many, he declared: *It is our generation's task, then, to reignite the true engine of America's economic growth: a rising, thriving middle class.*

It is—it is our unfinished task to restore the basic bargain that built this country, the idea that if you work hard and meet your responsibilities, you can get ahead, no matter where you come from, no matter what you look like or who you love.

It is our unfinished task to make sure that this government works on behalf of the many, and not just the few, that it encourages free enterprise, rewards individual initiative, and opens the doors of opportunity to every child across this great nation.

Then in a facilitative as well as prescriptive leadership style that excites many, and infuriates not a few, he romped with a Fix-it-First program on public works, a slew of advances on deficit reduction and tax reform, the need for urgent immigration measures and the revitalization of the middle class, early learning and technical-vocational education, gun legislation and private sector collaboration, the paycheck and women's rights, *et al.* Coming from nowhere, he hit a well aimed surprise homerun with an invitation for Congress to raise the minimum wage to \$9 from its current level of \$7.25. (I imagined some tremor from weaker knees in the Marianas Trench!)

He touched on a wide range of issues including extremist groups (al-Qaida) and counterterrorism, the end of U.S. presence in Afghanistan (though he failed to mention, in our view, a grave moral contradiction, the use of the drone), reduction of nuclear arsenals (Russia), inhibiting others from gaining one (Iran), and preparing for those who threaten to use one (the hermit kingdom of DPRK).

The adrenalin flow of the night was, however, the highlighted presence of many folks mentioned in the speech, including those victimized by gun violence, not the least of whom was one of the audience's former member, assassination survivor Gabrielle Gifford of Arizona. Obama did not push for a particular legislation; only that legislation already in docket deserves a vote. On the note, the SOTU almost turned into a participative rock festival!

Now's the time to do it. Now's the time to get it done, he thundered again and again. The speech is a tour de force, at once presidential and impassioned, a confident human resolve of imaginative proportions. We are partisan on record on this one. But it is not that the President is human. It is that we are invited to be human in the same vein.

BENEDICT

From Page 10

heart just wasn't in it anymore.

Queen Elizabeth has been on the British throne for 60 years and believes that death is her only out. Meanwhile, the Netherlands' Queen Beatrix, who just turned 75, abdicated, saying it was time for a new generation.

Indeed, only one U.S. Supreme Court justice—William Rehnquist—has died in office in the last half-century. Seventeen others have chosen to retire. Twenty-one U.S. senators are 70 or older. And 10 senators, if we elected presidents the way the Vatican elects popes, wouldn't be eligible to vote in 2016 because they would be 80 or older.

I am certain the Catholic Church would not like to see popes resign at the first sign of trouble or after some kind of no-confidence vote among the faithful. But Pope Benedict has provided future popes (and perhaps some others) an example of how to leave the stage gracefully and honestly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A better government

Dear Legislature: As a legal resident of Saipan and a concerned citizen of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, I am writing to let you know how I see the government for the past few years.

First of all, the impeachment of the governor that just happened recently. He has been charged with 18 counts of corruption, felony, and neglect. This is why this government is going down. The CNMI is supposed to have someone who can be trusted, not someone who is charged with multiple reasons. We need someone who can lead the CNMI into a better life. The prices of fuel, power, rental, food, water, etc. have been difficult to pay for those who are getting minimum wage rates only.

We live in a society where we must try to survive with the change within our government, where things have been far too expensive to get and we must work hard to get it. Some parents are struggling because of the government. They have kids they need to support and they are working hard but it's still not enough. Some parents don't have jobs just because they aren't U.S. citizens. How are we supposed to build the CNMI to make it better when all we do is just give the jobs to U.S. citizens and make others struggle? Is this what we call a good government?

We have schools in the CNMI that need to be fixed. I know for a fact that each school has this saying, "Drug-Free," which is a lie. There are drugs in schools and it's being passed everywhere. We need more parapro's to stop the violence and the drugs in our

schools. I'm a student at MHS and I see a lot of people smoking, chewing, skipping school. I can't feel secure in school because of the smell in the restrooms and the betel-nut stains everywhere, which is just disgusting. I don't want to have my future kids go to this kind of school if the government plans to stay like this.

There are tourists coming to Saipan and some of them want to live here. We don't want to chase them away with all the drugs and violence around. Especially since tourists are the ones bringing money to the CNMI. We need more police officers who can actually do their job right. They've got to be quicker at getting to their destinations and they've got to stop chewing betel nut while on the job.

Teachers in the CNMI are good but whenever a teacher is sick, there are barely any substitutes. How are we supposed to learn and take over you guys one day when we don't have substitute teachers with the same subject being taught or ones who know multiple subjects?

In conclusion, the government needs to look at the main points because we students will be the future leaders of the CNMI and we'll be taking over you guys one day. We need to better our education, government, police force, etc. There are more out there that need to be fixed. I just listed the things that would start to make our government better.

Parnell Ichihara

As *Perdido, Saipan*

mission jurisdiction and protection is ill advised and not consistent with the merit principles, even with the pseudo-rationalization by Mr. Orsini. The real question and one that the Civil Service Commission should champion, however, is preventing any appointing authority from abusing and perpetuating unlawful excepted employment practices as a deliberate means of circumventing the merit system standards and principles of employment practices.

A merit system is a method of personnel management designed to promote the efficiency and economy of the workforce and the good of the public by providing for the selection and retention of employees, in-service promotional opportunities, and other related matters, on the basis of merit and fitness. These employment practices follow stringent and proven merit principles that have been the guiding and sanctioning principles for appointing authorities in government circles since the death of President Garfield in 1883.

Francisco R. Agulto

Kannat Tabla, Saipan

"Taps." The chairman of the Saipan and Northern Mariana Island Municipal Council, Ramon "RB" Camacho, came up with the idea for a new kind of memorial service that will honor fallen elected leaders of our community at the municipal level, the "Municipal Memorial Service." The late Mayor Juan B. Tudela was the first one honored with this Municipal Memorial Service—a new tradition.

Alexandro Sablan

Dandan, Saipan

Merit system

It is important to remind Mr. Andrew Orsini, executive director of the Civil Service Commission, that the Civil Service Commission should not have any jurisdiction whatsoever over excepted positions and employees. Public Law 17-80 corrected this anomaly in the inconsistent and contradicting merit system practices of the CNMI government that was the darling of past and present administration for spoils that were given jobs as gifts for their patronage. If Mr. Orsini does not have complete understanding of the merit system of employment, then it is manifesting itself in the way that he expresses a lack of understanding of public employment practices under merit system standards.

The Civil Service Commission as a quasi-judicial administering agency on employment matters within the CNMI government is an independent and impartial body that should administer the merit system for only graded (classified) employees and positions and dealing with appointing authorities covered by the merit system employment regulations. To suggest that the ungraded or excepted employees and positions should be accorded Civil Service Com-

A new tradition

As we recognize a great leader and statesman, the late Mayor Juan B. Tudela, we look back at the accomplishments and the many attributes we associate with Mr. Tudela. I remember him as a teacher, a congressman, and also as our great mayor. He raised accomplished children and was enraptured with the wife of his youth. What wonderful examples he has set, not just for his family but also to our great CNMI.

Despite the abolition of the provisions for "State Funerals," one was still given to honor the late Mayor Juan B. Tudela, complete with a 15-gun salute, honor guards, and playing

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy and windy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 30 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 84° ▼ 76°	▲ 84° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Showers	▲ 75 ▼ 66
Yap	Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 66
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 36 ▼ 19
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 62
Honolulu	Windy	▲ 78 ▼ 69
London	Sunny	▲ 45 ▼ 34
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 62 ▼ 49
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 70
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 64
New York	Sunny	▲ 35 ▼ 28
Osaka	Showers	▲ 44 ▼ 36
Paris	Sunny	▲ 47 ▼ 30
Pusan	Showers	▲ 44 ▼ 28
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 34
Salem	Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 38
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 47
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 32 ▼ 20
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 46 ▼ 35
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 43 ▼ 35

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:40 AM	6:22 PM	Today	12:03 PM	12:24 AM
Tuesday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM	Tuesday	12:50 PM	1:13 AM
Wednesday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM	Wednesday	1:38 PM	2:02 AM
Thursday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM	Thursday	2:28 PM	2:49 AM
Friday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM	Friday	3:18 PM	3:35 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SAR

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:35am	4:10am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:55am	11:30am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am+1	4, 6, 7
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

0Z607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6
0Z607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2

####

Business

Budget cut warnings may prove harsher than reality

WASHINGTON (AP)—Get ready for two weeks of intensifying warnings about how crucial, popular government services are about to wither. Many of the threats could come true.

President Barack Obama and congressional Republicans made no progress this past week in heading off \$85 billion in budget-wide cuts that automatically start taking effect March 1.

Lacking a bipartisan deal to avoid them and hoping to heap blame and pressure on GOP lawmakers, the administration is offering vivid details about the cuts' consequences: trimmed defense contracts, less secure U.S. embassies, furloughed air traffic controllers.

Past administrations have seldom hesitated to spotlight how budget standoffs would wilt programs the public values.

When a budget fight between President Bill Clinton and congressional Republicans led to two government shutdowns, in 1995 and 1996, some threats came true, like padlocked national parks.

Others did not.

Clinton warned that Medicare recipients might lose medical treatment, feeding programs for the low-income elderly could end and treatment at veterans' hospitals could be curtailed. All continued, thanks to contractors working for IOUs, local governments and charities stepping in and the budget impasse ending before serious damage occurred.

This time, at stake is not a federal shutdown but a range of automatic cuts. Between March 1 and Sept. 30, the remainder of the government's budget year, it would mean reductions of 13 percent for defense programs and 9 percent for other programs, according to the White House budget office.

The cuts, plus nearly \$1 trillion more over the coming decade, were concocted two years ago. Administration and congressional bargainers purposely made them so painful that everyone would be forced to reach a grand deficit-cutting compromise to avoid them.

Hasn't happened.

A look at the cuts and the chilling impact the administration



Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., a member of the House Budget Committee and Ways and Means Committee, center, joins House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, right, and Rep. Susan Brooks, R-Ind., gestures during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2013, to demand for President Obama to submit a budget proposal to Congress.

says they would have, based on letters and testimony to Congress:

■ **A key reminder:** Social Security, Medicare and veterans' benefits, Medicaid and a host of other benefit programs are exempted. The cuts take effect over a seven-month period; they don't all crash ashore on March 1. If a bipartisan deal to ease them is reached, lawmakers could restore some or all the money retroactively.

■ **On the other hand:** Left in effect, these cuts are real even though their program-by-program impact is unclear. The law limits the administration's flexibility to protect favored initiatives, but the White House has told agencies to avoid cuts presenting "risks to life, safety or health" and to minimize harm to crucial services.

■ **Defense:** Troops at war would be protected, but there'd be fewer Air Force flying hours, less training for some Army units and cuts in naval forces. A \$3 billion cut in the military's Tricare health care system could diminish elective care for military families and retirees. And, in a warning to the private defense industry, the Pentagon said it would be "restructuring contracts to

reduce their scope and cost."

■ **Health:** The National Institutes of Health would lose \$1.6 billion, trimming cancer research and drying up funds for hundreds of other research projects. Health departments would give 424,000 fewer tests for the AIDS virus. More than 373,000 people may not receive mental health services.

■ **Food and agriculture:** About 600,000 low-income pregnant women and new mothers would lose food aid and nutrition education. Meat inspectors could be furloughed up to 15 days, shutting meatpacking plants intermittently and costing up to \$10 billion in production losses.

■ **Homeland Security:** Fewer border agents and facilities for detained illegal immigrants. Reduced Coast Guard air and sea operations, furloughed Secret Service agents and weakened efforts against cyberthreats to computer networks. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief fund would lose more than \$1 billion.

■ **Education:** Seventy thousand Head Start pupils would be removed from the prekindergarten program. Layoffs of 10,000

teachers and thousands of other staffers because of cuts in federal dollars that state and local governments use for schools. Cuts for programs for disabled and other special-needs students.

■ **Transportation:** Most of the Federal Aviation Administration's 47,000 employees would face furloughs, including air traffic controllers, for an average of 11 days.

■ **Environment:** Diminished Environmental Protection Agency monitoring of oil spills, air pollution and hazardous waste. The color-coded air quality forecasting system that keeps schoolchildren and others inside on bad-air days would be curtailed or eliminated. New models of cars and trucks could take longer to reach consumers because the EPA couldn't quickly validate that they meet emissions standards.

■ **State Department:** Slow security improvements at overseas facilities, cuts in economic aid in Afghanistan and malaria control in Africa.

■ **Internal Revenue Service:** Furloughed workers would reduce the IRS' ability to review returns, detect fraud and answer taxpayers' questions. It offered

no specifics.

■ **FBI:** Furloughs and a hiring freeze would have the equivalent impact of cutting 2,285 employees, including 775 agents. Every FBI employee would be furloughed 14 workdays.

■ **Interior Department:** Hours and service would be trimmed at all 398 national parks, and up to 128 wildlife refuges could be shuttered. Oil, gas and coal development on public lands and offshore waters would be diminished because the agency would be less able to issue permits, conduct environmental reviews and inspect facilities.

■ **Labor:** More than 3.8 million people jobless for six months or longer could see their unemployment

benefits reduced by as much as 9.4 percent. Thousands of veterans would lose job counseling. Fewer Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspectors could mean 1,200 fewer visits to work sites. One million fewer people would get help finding or preparing for new jobs.

■ **NASA:** Nearly \$900 million in cuts, including funds to help private companies build capsules to send astronauts to the International Space Station.

■ **Housing:** The Department of Housing and Urban Development said about 125,000 poor households could lose benefits from the agency's Housing Choice Voucher program and risk becoming homeless.

BMW recalls nearly 570,000 cars to fix cables

DETROIT (AP)—BMW is recalling almost 570,000 cars in the U.S. and Canada because a battery cable connector can fail and cause the engines to stall.

The recall affects popular 3-Series sedans, wagons, convertibles and coupes from the 2007 through 2011 model years. Also included are 1-Series coupes and convertibles from 2008 through 2012, and the Z4 sports car from 2009 through 2011.

The cable connectors and a fuse box terminal in the cars can degrade over time, and that can break the electrical connection between the trunk-mounted battery and the fuse box at the front. If that happens, the cars could lose electrical power, causing the engines to stall unexpectedly, the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said in documents posted on its website Saturday.

The company says in documents sent to NHTSA that the

problem stems from movement between the battery cable and the fuse box.

BMW says it knows of one minor collision in Canada due to the problem, but no injuries.

The German automaker says dealers will replace the battery cable connector and secure it for free. It will start notifying owners in March.

The 3-Series is BMW's most popular car in the U.S., dominating the small luxury car market. The company sold nearly 100,000 of them in the U.S. last year.

The recall affects more than 504,000 cars in the U.S. and another 65,000 in Canada.

BMW, Toyota and other automakers have experienced large recalls in recent years because they use common parts on multiple models in order to save money.

Owners can call BMW with questions at (800) 525-7417.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

G20 finance chiefs in exchange rate pledge

MOSCOW (AP)—Finance chiefs from the world's 20 leading industrial and developing countries attempted Saturday to calm fears that governments are using foreign exchange as an economic weapon by pledging not to weaken their currencies to gain an advantage in global trade.

The two-day meeting in Moscow ended Saturday with a joint communique that included a promise that the G20 members would "refrain from competitive devaluation" and "resist all forms of protectionism and keep our markets open." There has recently been widespread unease among investors and politicians over developments affecting the Japanese yen, which now trades near a three-year low. Japan is facing charges that it is trying first and foremost to lower the value of the yen to stimulate its

economy and get the edge over other countries.

Spaniards protest against evictions

MADRID (AP)—Demonstrations were held across Spain on Saturday to protest harsh repossession laws that have led to hundreds of thousands of evictions during the country's deep recession. In Madrid—one of 50 cities where such protests were planned—thousands of people marched to demand that the government amend the laws. Demonstrations also took place in cities such as Barcelona, Pamplona, Valencia and Seville. More than 350,000 Spaniards have received eviction orders since 2008 because they were unable to make mortgage payments. Unemployment is at a staggering 26 percent, with young people the worst hit as Spain descends into a double-dip recession.

New report questions FAA's airline safety promise

WASHINGTON (AP)—Since a deadly airline crash in 2009, the government hasn't kept its promise to ensure that major airlines are holding their smaller partners to the same safety standards, a federal watchdog says.

The Transportation Department's inspector general faults the Federal Aviation Administration for not taking steps to encourage the big airlines "to consistently share safety information and best practices" with regional airlines that operate

flights under contract for them. That business link is known as code-sharing, by which one airline sells tickets for seats on a flight operated by another airline—United and United Express, for example.

More than half of all airline flights in the U.S. are operated by regional airlines using names such as United Express, Delta Connection, American Connection and US Airways Express under code-sharing arrangements.

A flight operated by regional

carrier Colgan Air for Continental Airlines under the name Continental Express crashed in February 2009 near Buffalo, N.Y., killing 50 people. After that crash, officials at the department and the FAA said they would begin reviewing code-share contracts to see if they impinged on safety.

Investigators cited pilot training lapses by Colgan as a factor. Colgan ended flying in September as part of its parent company's restructuring.

Nation

Report: Bill would set an 8-year path to residency

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House is circulating a draft immigration bill that would create a new visa for illegal immigrants living in the United States and allow them to become legal permanent residents within eight years, according to a report published online Saturday by USA Today.

President Barack Obama's bill would create a "Lawful Prospective Immigrant" visa for the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants living in the United States. The bill includes more security funding and requires business owners to adopt a system for verifying the immigration status of new hires within four years, the newspaper said.

USA Today reported that the bill would require that immigrants pass a criminal background check, submit biometric information and pay fees to qualify for the new visa. Immigrants who served more than a year in prison for a criminal conviction or were convicted of three or more crimes and were sentenced to a total of 90 days in jail would not be eligible. Crimes committed in other countries that would bar immigrants from legally entering the country would also be ineligible.

Those immigrants facing deportation would be eligible to apply for the visa, the newspaper reported. Immigrants would be eligible to apply for a green



AP

Somalian refugees (from left), Fowsiyo Abdekir, Kadra Abdi, Muna Abdirahman, Asha Nuur (Ethiopia) and Dunaye Hassan rally with Anisa Ali (far right) and members of the Refugee Women's Alliance during the Refugee and Immigrant Legislative Day rally on the Capitol steps in Olympia, Wash., on Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013.

card within eight years, if they learn English and U.S. history and government, and they would later be eligible to become U.S. citizens.

Last month a bipartisan group of senators announced they had agreed on the general outline of an immigration plan. For his

part, Obama has said he would not submit his own legislation to Congress so long as law makers acted "in a timely manner." If they failed, he said, "I will send up a bill based on my proposal and insist that they vote on it right away."

Clark Stevens, a White House

spokesman, said Saturday that Obama still supports a bipartisan effort to craft a comprehensive immigration bill. "While the president has made clear he will move forward if Congress fails to act, progress continues to be made and the administration has not pre-

pared a final bill to submit," he said in a statement.

"Commonsense immigration reform must include a functioning immigration system for the future," Noorani said in a statement. "Reform does not begin and end with citizenship and enforcement alone."

Jackson Jr.'s downfall tied to objects, not power

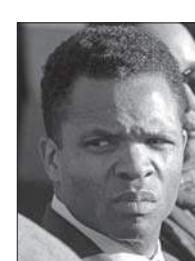
CHICAGO (AP)—For all the talk of Jesse Jackson Jr. aspiring to be a U.S. senator or mayor of the nation's third-largest city, his career wasn't ended by attempts to amass political power.

Instead, it was the former congressman's desire for flashy items—a gold-plated Rolex watch, furs and collectibles, such as Eddie Van Halen's guitar.

In a state where stop-at-nothing political ambition has been well documented—and often rewarded—the seemingly frivolous cause of Jackson's undoing is seen by political observers and former colleagues as both nonsensical and sad.

Jackson's wife, former alderman Sandra Jackson, was charged with one count of filing false joint federal income tax returns.

Authorities say the returns, for the years 2006 through 2011, knowingly understated the income the couple received.



Both agreed to plead guilty in deals with federal prosecutors. Their sentencing dates have not been set, but the charges both carry possible sentences of several years in prison. Jackson Jr. also could be ordered to repay thousands of dollars in fines and forfeitures.

While former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich went to prison because he tried to trade President Barack Obama's U.S. Senate seat for a more prestigious job or millions in campaign donations, Jackson could go to prison for, in part, buying memorabilia tied to martial arts movie star Bruce Lee.

The son of a civil rights icon, Jackson represented Illinois' 2nd District, which includes part of Chicago's South Side and south suburbs, for 17 years. He was wildly popular in his heavily Democratic district, consistently winning elections with more than 80 percent of the vote.

Gun ban would protect more than 2,200 firearms

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress' latest crack at a new assault weapons ban would protect more than 2,200 specific firearms, including a semi-automatic rifle that is nearly identical to one of the guns used in the bloodiest shootout in FBI history.

One model of that firearm, the Ruger .223 caliber Mini-14, is on the proposed list to be banned, while a different model of the same gun is on a list of exempted firearms in legislation the Senate is considering.

The gun that would be protected from the ban has fixed physical features and can't be folded to be more compact. Yet the two firearms are equally deadly.

"What a joke," said former FBI agent John Hanlon, who survived the 1986 shootout in Miami. He was shot in the head, hand, groin and hip with a Ruger Mini-14 that had a folding stock. Two FBI agents died and five others were wounded.

Hanlon recalled lying on the street as brass bullet cas-

ings showered on him. He thought the shooter had an automatic weapon.

Both models of the Ruger Mini-14 specified in the proposed bill can take detachable magazines that hold dozens of rounds of ammunition. "I can't imagine what the difference is," Hanlon said.

President Barack Obama has called for restoring a ban on military-style assault weapons and limiting the size of ammunition magazines.

A bill introduced last month

by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. would ban 157 specific firearms designed for military and law enforcement use and exempt others made for hunting purposes. It also would ban ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds.

Yet there are firearms that would be protected under Feinstein's proposal that can take large capacity magazines like the ones used in mass shootings that enable a gunman to fire dozens of rounds of ammunition without reloading.

Mahon said.

"Our deputy knocked on that door and did not get an answer, and in hindsight it's probably a good thing that he did not answer based on his actions before and after that event," the sheriff said of Dorner.

When the owners went inside the condo, Dorner tied them up and fled in their car, leading to a chase and a shootout that killed a sheriff's deputy.

While some residents have criticized authorities for missing Dorner so close by, the sheriff emphatically supported his

department, raising his voice and saying deputies "performed flawlessly."

"Understand we found the door locked at that condominium," he said. "My instructions were that we were not going to kick the doors open to unoccupied residences or ones where nobody answered."

Police initially weren't sure if Dorner was killed by one of their bullets or by a fire sparked when they launched incendiary tear gas inside. Now they believe he died by his own hand as the cabin was going up in flames.

Dorner was hiding in nearby condo during manhunt

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—It didn't take ingenuity for Christopher Dorner to elude authorities for six days. He simply opened an unlocked door.

As law enforcement swarmed a mountain neighborhood searching for the fugitive ex-cop, Dorner hid in a condominium 100 feet across the street from a command post and a short distance where he left his burned-out truck.

On Friday, San Bernardino County investigators revealed Dorner died from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head and defended tactics

Asia

Death toll in Pakistani bombing climbs to 81

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—The death toll from a horrific bombing that tore through a crowded vegetable market in southwestern Pakistan climbed to 81 with many of the severely wounded dying overnight, a Pakistani police official said Sunday.

Police official Fayyaz Saumal said 164 people also were wounded by the explosion Saturday in the city of Quetta just as people shopped for produce for their evening meal. The bomb was hidden in a water tank and towed into the market by a tractor, Quetta police chief Zubair Mahmood told reporters.

It was the deadliest incident since bombings targeting Shiites in the same city killed 86 people earlier this year, leading

► Local residents survey a damaged market caused by Saturday's bombing in Quetta, Pakistan on Sunday, Feb. 17, 2013.



Bangladeshis demand death for war crimes convict

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—For many in Bangladesh, the "V" for victory sign was more than they could bear.

They had waited more than four decades for justice in the mass killings and rapes during their independence war. But there was a smiling Abdul Quader Mollah on Feb. 5 apparently celebrating his life sentence—given in place of an expected death sentence—for his role in the killing of 381 civilians.

Within hours, thousands of university students demanding his death poured into the streets of Dhaka, the seeds of what has grown into a mass protest that has exposed again the unhealed wounds from the nation's 1971 war for independence from Pakistan.

"I could not take it. That was really insulting," Gazi Nasiruddin Khokon, a protester who works for an online newspaper, said of Mollah's victorious gesture after his sentencing last week. "If we don't get proper justice for such crimes, where would we stand in the future?"

Mollah was convicted by a special war crimes tribunal that was set up to hold people accountable for the first time for their roles in

the civil war, where Bangladesh says as many as 3 million people were killed and 200,000 women raped by Pakistani troops and local collaborators.

But the trials are also seen as part of a long and bitter rivalry between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the main opposition leader, former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who is allied with the Islamic party Jamaat-e-Islami, many of whose leaders face charges before the tribunal.

Jamaat, which opposed Bangladesh's fight for independence, and Zia have called the tribunal politically motivated, while international rights groups have raised questions about the conduct of the trials. The head of one of the tribunals resigned in December over reports he had improper conversations with a lawyer about the panel.

Mollah, an assistant secretary of Jamaat, was found guilty Feb. 5 of killing a student and a family of 11 and of aiding Pakistani troops in killing 369 others. Members of his party took to the streets in anger at his conviction, exploding homemade bombs and clashing with police.

But they were soon overshadowed by thousands of protesters who flooded a major intersection in the capital, Dhaka, upset by what they said was a lenient sentence of life in prison, which actually means just 14 years in Bangladesh. They also were inflamed by the image of Mollah smiling at journalists and holding up two fingers in a "V" sign as he was led from the court, apparently in celebration of his avoiding the death penalty.

Fueled by online posts, the protests grew until hundreds of thousands of people took over the Shahbagh intersection, which they renamed Projonmo Chattar, or New Generation Platform.

Many slept there, collecting donations for food. Others came after work and stayed late into the night, listening to chants for justice over loudspeakers. Some beat drums and wrapped their heads in scarves with slogans saying "We want death for the war criminals" and "Traitors have no place in this land."

The protesters also called for Jamaat to be banned.

The immensely popular national cricket team came to the site to express solidarity with the protesters, and on Thursday evening, organizers said more

than 100,000 candles were lit at the site.

To counter any accusations that the protest was organized by Hasina's government, politicians were banned from the stage.

"This is a history. A new history is in the making," said Aminal Islam, a 30-year-old bank employee at the protest site.

"It is unbelievable," he said. "This is our fight, this is another war, not with rifles in hand, but with an unconditional urge to bring those to book for killing our people and dishonoring our mothers and sisters."

Even though many of the protesters had not been born when the war raged, they were still scarred by it and the lack of accountability for those accused of crimes during the fighting, said Hassan Shahriar. To some that lack of accountability was reflected in the fact two members of Jamaat have served as Cabinet ministers. "Generation after generation have seen no remedy, no punishment for the perpetrators. Rather they have become influential political actors, social actors, and the new generation has been silently frustrated," he said. "The wounds are still fresh."

to days of protests that eventually toppled the local government.

Shiites have been increasingly attacked by militant groups who view them as heretics and non-Muslims in the country,

Karzai: Afghan forces can't request airstrikes

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan President Hamid Karzai said Saturday that he will issue a decree banning Afghan security forces from asking international troops to carry out airstrikes under "any circumstances."

The announcement came amid anger over a joint Afghan-NATO operation this week that Afghan officials said killed 10 civilians, including women and children, in northeast Kunar province.

"I will issue a decree tomorrow that no Afghan security forces, in any circumstances, in any circumstances can ask for the foreigners' planes for carrying out operations on our homes and villages," Karzai said in a speech at the Afghan National Military Academy in Kabul.

Civilian deaths at the hands of foreign forces, in particular airstrikes, have been among the most divisive issues of the 11-year-old war, although the U.S.-led coalition has implemented measures to mitigate them. But the Afghan military

which is dominated by Sunni Muslims. Many of the Shiites in Quetta, including those in the neighborhood attacked Saturday, are Hazaras, an ethnic group that migrated to Pakistan from Afghanistan more than a century ago.

The blast, which destroyed shops and caused a two-story building to collapse, left a massive crater where it exploded.

Mahmood said police did not yet know who was behind the bombing but a local television station reported that Lashker-e-Jhangvi, a Sunni extremist group that has targeted Shiites in the past, had called to claim responsibility.

Last year was particularly deadly for Shiites in Pakistan. According to Human Rights Watch, more than 400 were killed in targeted attacks across the country. The human rights group said more than 125 were killed in Baluchistan province, most of whom belonged to the Hazara community.

Rights groups have accused the government of not doing enough to protect Shiites in the country.

Karzai: Afghan forces can't request airstrikes

also relies heavily on air support to gain advantage in the fight against Taliban militants and other insurgents.

Many have expressed concern that the impending withdrawal of international combat forces by the end of 2014 will deprive government security forces of that crucial weapon. President Barack Obama has announced that he will withdraw about half of the 66,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan within a year.

According to Gen. John Allen, the former top commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, the coalition can provide air support to troops on the ground anywhere in Afghanistan within 12 minutes of a request. He said Afghan forces would have to get used to not having the same abilities in the future.

Jamie Graybeal, a spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition, declined to comment on Karzai's remarks because alliance officials have not yet seen the decree.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Builder says plan for new Titanic draws interest

HONG KONG (AP)—The Australian billionaire who's planning to build a high-tech replica of the Titanic at a Chinese shipyard has received an "overwhelming" response from people who want to be the first paying passengers. Representatives for Clive Palmer,

who in April announced a preliminary agreement with state-owned Chinese company CSC Jinling Shipyard to build Titanic II, said Saturday that his shipping company had received inquiries from people in the United States, Britain, Asia and South America. Interest has been so strong that "we've probably had half a dozen people already offering

more than \$1 million to get on the maiden voyage" slated for 2016, said James McDonald, global marketing director of Blue Star Line Pty. Ltd.

Video gaming company says no Spitfires in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A global video gaming company that funded a high-profile hunt

for dozens of World War II-era British fighters in Myanmar has some bad news for aviation enthusiasts: It says none of the legendary planes are buried in the Southeast Asian country. Excavation teams carrying out surveys on the ground, however, said Saturday that they would not give up the search. The hunt for the lost planes was launched amid hope that as many as 140

rare Spitfires were hidden in crates in pristine condition in three locations in Myanmar.

Former Singapore PM Lee Kuan Yew hospitalized

SINGAPORE (AP)—Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's first prime minister, has been hospitalized following a brain-related blockage. A statement from the

Prime Minister's Office says the 89-year-old Lee was admitted to Singapore General Hospital on Friday after experiencing a suspected transient ischaemic attack, which occurs when blood flow to the brain stops for a period of time. The condition is associated with irregular heartbeats. The statement says Lee is recovering but will remain in the hospital for a few days.

World

Russian region begins recovery from meteor fall

CHELYABINSK, Russia (AP)—As a small army of people worked to replace acres of windows shattered by the enormous explosion from a meteor, many joked on Saturday about what had happened in this troubled pocket of Russia.

One of the most popular jests: Residents of the meteor were

terrified to see Chelyabinsk approaching.

The fireball that streaked into the sky over this tough industrial city at about sunrise Friday was undeniably traumatic. Nearly 1,200 people were reported injured by the shock wave from the explosion, estimated to be as strong as 20 Hiroshima atomic bombs.

But it also brought a sense of cooperation in a troubled region. Large numbers of volunteers came forward to help fix the damage caused by the explosion and many residents came together on the Internet—first to find out what happened and soon to make jokes.

Chelyabinsk, nicknamed Tankograd because it produced the famed Soviet T-34 tanks, can be as grim as its backbone heavy industries. Long winters where temperatures routinely hit minus-30 Celsius (minus-22 Fahrenheit) add to a general dour mien, as do worries about dangerous facilities in the sur-

rounding region.

In 1957, a waste tank at the Mayak nuclear weapons plant in the Chelyabinsk region exploded, contaminating 23,000 square kilometers (9,200 square miles) and prompting authorities to evacuate 10,000 nearby residents. It is now Russia's main nuclear waste disposal facility. A vast plant for disposing of chemical weapons lies 85 kilometers (50 miles) east of the city.

"The city is a place where people always seem bitter with each other," said music teacher Ilya Shibanov. But the meteor "was one of the rare times when people started to live together through one event."

"For most people, it's a good excuse for a joke," he said.

It also is why Shibanov quickly concocted a rap video that got wide Internet attention, including the lines: "Pow, pow, pow—everyting flew and factory windows crumbled. This Friday the bars are going to be full, so be

ready for the aftermath."

But for many, it's provided a reason to roll up their sleeves and get to work repairing the more than 4,000 buildings in the city and region where windows were shattered, or to provide other services.

More than 24,000 people, including volunteers, have mobilized in the region to cover windows, gather warm clothes and food, and make other relief efforts, the regional governor's office said. Crews from glass companies in adjacent regions were being flown in.

Gov. Mikhail Yurevich on Saturday said that damage from the high-altitude explosion believed to have been as powerful as 20 Hiroshima bombs—is estimated at 1 billion rubles (\$33 million). He promised to have all the broken windows replaced within a week. But that is a long wait in a frigid region. The midday temperature in Chelyabinsk was minus-12 C (10 F), and for many the immediate task was to put up plastic sheeting and boards on shattered residential windows.

Meanwhile, the search continued for major fragments of the meteor.

In the town of Chebarkul, 80 kilometers (50 miles) west of Chelyabinsk city, divers explored the bottom of an ice-crusted lake looking for meteor fragments believed to have fallen there, leaving a six-meter-wide (20-foot-wide) hole. Emergency Ministry spokeswoman Irina Rossius told Russian news agencies the search hadn't found anything.

Police kept a small crowd of curious onlookers from venturing out onto the icy lake, where a tent was set up for the divers.

Many of them were still trying to process the memories of the strange day they'd lived through.



In this frame grab made from dashboard camera video, a meteor streaks through the sky over Chelyabinsk, about 1500 kilometers (930 miles) east of Moscow, Friday, Feb. 15, 2013.

Sectarian kidnappings spread strife in north Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—A rural patch of north Syria has been shaken by a series of tit-for-tat, sectarian kidnappings, anti-regime activists said Saturday, highlighting how much the country's civil war has inflamed tensions between different religious groups.

While all activists agreed that kidnappings had spiked in recent days between armed men in neighboring Shiite and Sunni Muslim villages, reports of the numbers kidnapped by both sides ranged from a few dozen to more than 300.

The kidnappings and the raw feelings they have provoked

bode ill for the chances of reconciliation between Syrians, many of whom have come to see the civil war as either a sacred battle to advance their faith or a mortal struggle for the survival of their sect.

Since Syria's crisis began with protests calling for political reforms in March 2011, it has gradually grown more sectarian.

Most of the rebels who

have taken up arms to topple

the regime of President Bashar

Assad are from Syria's Sunni

majority. Assad himself is an

Alawite, an offshoot of Shiite

Islam, and has heavily stocked

his security forces with fellow Alawites and Shiites.

The rise of Islamic fundamentalists among the rebels makes many among Syria's minorities—including Alawites, Shiites, Christians, Armenians and others—fear that a rebel victory could leave them with no place in Syria.

The spate of kidnappings in recent days in the northern Idlib province, which lies along the border with Turkey, provides one example of how Syria's crisis has raised the specter of increasingly sectarian violence. Local activists

said Sunni-Shiite tensions were rare in the area before Syria's crisis began, and that residents of the only two Shiite villages, Fua and Kifarya, moved freely through the constellation of Sunni villages around them.

Tensions rose, however, after the crisis began and opposition members armed themselves to fight back against Assad's harsh crackdown on dissent. Most of the Sunni villages embraced the uprising, while the Shiites stood by the regime. Many say the government armed its supporters to help fight the rebels.

Vatican raises possibility of early March conclave

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican raised the possibility Saturday that the conclave to elect the next pope might start sooner than March 15, the earliest date possible under current rules that require a 15 to 20 day waiting period after the papacy becomes vacant.

Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi said that Vatican rules on papal succession are open to interpretation and that "this is a question that people are discussing."

Any change to the law itself would have to be approved by the pope before he resigns.

But if Vatican officials determine that the matter is just a question of interpreting the existing law, "it is possible that church authorities can prepare a proposal to be taken up by the cardinals on the first day after the papal vacancy" to move up the start of the conclave, Lombardi said.

The date of the conclave's start is important because Holy Week begins March 24, with Palm Sunday Mass followed by Easter Sunday on March 31. In order to have a new pope in place in time for the most solemn liturgical period on the church calendar, he would need to be installed by Sunday, March 17, because of the strong tradition to hold installation Mass on a Sunday. Given the tight time frame,

speculation has mounted that some arrangement would be made to start the conclave earlier than a strict reading of the law would allow.

Questions about the start of the conclave have swirled since Benedict stunned the world on Feb. 11, by announcing that he would retire, the first pontiff in 600 years to abdicate rather than stay in office until death. His decision has created a host of questions about how the Vatican will proceed, given that its plans for the so-called "sede vacante"—or vacant seat—period between papacies are based on the process starting with a papal death.

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Four foreigners were arrested in Libya on suspicion of distributing books about Christianity and proselytizing, a Libyan police spokesman said on Saturday. Police spokesman Hussein bin Hamid said the suspects were from South Africa, Egypt and South Korea, and one held both Swedish and U.S. nationality. The Swedish Foreign Ministry confirmed that a dual national Swedish-American citizen was arrested while traveling on a U.S. passport. The U.S. Embassy in Libya declined comment. Spreading Christianity is a crime in the predominantly Muslim North African country.

Ivory Coast police disperse pro-Gbagbo march

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—Police in Ivory Coast fired tear gas to disperse a march by supporters of the country's former President Laurent Gbagbo. The secretary-general for the youth wing of Gbagbo's party that organized Saturday's march, Justin Koua, said that 16 protesters were arrested, and six others were wounded. Koua said they thought the gathering was permitted, before being told it was banned. Hundreds gathered Saturday in the economic capital to call for Gbagbo's liberation days before the International Criminal Court will make a decision as to whether he will go to trial for crimes against humanity.

Meteorite strike

Shock waves from blast over Russia injured hundreds.



- When it hit atmosphere, meteor massed 7,000 tons
- Explosions occurred about 9:20 a.m. local time, Feb. 15;
- Meteorites scattered
- Shockwave blew out windows, rocked buildings
- About 270 buildings sustained damage

Source: BBC, ESRI
Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2013 MCT

WORLD BRIEFS

Libya arrests suspected Christian missionaries

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Four foreigners were arrested in Libya on suspicion of distributing books about Christianity and proselytizing, a Libyan police spokesman said on Saturday. Police spokesman Hussein bin Hamid said the suspects were from South Africa, Egypt and South Korea, and one held both Swedish and U.S. nationality. The Swedish Foreign Ministry confirmed that a dual national Swedish-American citizen was arrested while traveling on a U.S. passport. The U.S. Embassy in Libya declined comment. Spreading Christianity is a crime in the predominantly Muslim North African country.

Focus

BIG BEAR LAKE, Calif. (AP)—As soon as he heard officers were chasing the suspected cop killer in a stolen truck, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Deputy Roger Loftis was certain: His buddy Jeremiah MacKay would be there.

In 15 years with the department, "Jer" had earned about a dozen and a half awards for 10851s—the California penal code for grand theft auto. Once, while heading to a bar to celebrate another award, MacKay noticed there were no keys in the ignition of the car next to him at a traffic light, and he veered off.

He waltzed into the bar two hours later, a grin stretched across that fair, freckled face, a copy of an auto recovery record in his hand.

Last week, Loftis called his fishing, drinking and golfing buddy to see how he was doing. He knew the 35-year-old detective had been working around the clock, scouring the San Bernardino Mountains in the search for former Los Angeles Police Officer Christopher Dorner.

"If that guy's still on this mountain," MacKay told him, "I'm going to find him."

When the announcer reported that two deputies had exchanged fire with the suspect, Loftis got a sick feeling in his stomach. The 54-year-old corrections officer sent his friend a text.

"I know you're busy," he typed. "But let me know you're OK. ASAP."

There was no answer.

About an hour later, a colleague called with the news: MacKay, husband and father of two, was dead. Soon, so would be his killer.

Like the Unabomber and other mass killers, the 33-year-old former cop wrote a "manifesto." And, like so many others, Dorner's perceptions of the world and its supposed injustices against him seem out of sync with reality.

Why now?

Was it the supposed institutional racism that cost him his LAPD badge? That was four years ago.

Was it, as he once suggested, residual trauma from his military service in the Middle East? Records show a relatively benign tour of duty, well outside the war zone.

One marriage fell apart; a second went no further than the license application. This, too, he seemed to blame on others—anyone but himself.

"I never had the opportunity to have a family of my own," he wrote to his targets. "I'm terminating yours."

Even his boasts of paramilitary prowess and promise to "bring unconventional and asymmetrical warfare" to southern California evaporated in a cavalcade of broken-down vehicles, failed hijackings and a botched hog-tying. His weeklong stint as America's most wanted fugitive ended in a shootout with police, and then what officials said was a self-in-

How life on run ended for California police killer

By A. BREED, JULIE WATSON and TAMI ABDOLLAH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

flicted gunshot to the head.

■ ■ ■

At 6 feet and 270 pounds, Christopher Jordan Dorner looked every inch the college football player he once was.

Melinda Yates befriended Dorner when they attended Southern Utah University together in Cedar City, a small town northeast of Las Vegas. She remembers him as "kind of like a big teddy bear," always smiling.

Apparently, behind that sweet smile there was rage.

Dorner claimed his earliest experience with racism was in first grade at a Christian school, when he punched and kicked a fellow student who'd called him a "nigger" on the playground. The principal "swatted" the other boy for the slur, then struck Dorner for failing to "turn the other cheek as Jesus did."

"That day," he would write in the now infamous manifesto, "I made a life decision that I will not tolerate racial derogatory terms spoken to me."

Dorner joined the Navy in July 2002. He told a reporter that he wanted to fly SH-60/MH-60 Seahawk helicopters on special operations and search-and-rescue missions—but later told an acquaintance that a problem with vertigo killed those dreams.

So he went into the Navy Reserve doing mostly administrative work after his active-duty stint ended in June 2004.

Soon afterward, he shifted his sights to the LAPD.

He entered the academy on Feb. 7, 2005.

Like the other cadets, Dorner went through the department's rigorous six-month, 920-hour academy training. Upon completion, he joined a training officer on the street, working regular 12-hour shifts. There was at least one bump in the road: He was suspended for two days for accidental discharge of his firearm.

(More than five years later, on Oct. 19 of last year, Las Vegas records show that he and Ali Kristine McDonald obtained a marriage license. But there is no indication they actually married.)

He was called up in the Reserve and left on a six-month deployment to Bahrain on Nov. 3, 2006. He worked mostly providing port protection, earning an Iraq Campaign Medal and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Dorner returned to the LAPD in 2007 and resumed his training. That is when his career—and life—went off the rails.



In this Friday, Feb. 15, 2013 file photo, Rick Heltebrake, with his dog Suni, looks over the burned-out cabin where Christopher Dorner's remains were found after a police standoff Tuesday near Big Bear, Calif. Dorner took his pickup during his escape attempt. Heltebrake, a ranger who takes care of a Boy Scout camp, was checking the perimeter of the camp for anything out of the ordinary when he saw Dorner emerge from behind some trees.

Sgt. Teresa Evans, his training officer, said Dorner repeatedly asked why he was being put back on patrol without reintegration training. On one occasion, she said, he began weeping in the patrol car and demanded to go back to the academy.

Dorner told Evans that he "might have some issues regarding his deployment," she told investigators.

A day after Evans submitted a poor review, Dorner told internal affairs that she had kicked a mentally ill man in the chest and left cheek during an arrest. He was relieved of duty on Sept. 4, 2008.

A police review panel ultimately found the allegation untrue. He was officially fired on Jan. 2, 2009.

There were already hints of a troubled personal life; Dorner married April Carter in April 2007 and bought a home a few miles from the Las Vegas Strip. Less than a month later, the couple filed for a divorce.

A year after Dorner became a police officer, he rose to the rank of lieutenant in the Navy on Aug. 1, 2006—his last promotion.

Months after he was fired, Dorner filed a writ in Los Angeles Superior Court against the LAPD, alleging wrongful termination. He continued filing appeals in different courts up until 2011.

But why Dorner unleashed his revenge now is unclear. Former roommate J'Anna Viskoc has a theory.

For about two months in the summer of 2008, the Las Vegas manicurist rented a room in Dorner's home. Aside from all the guns—which were "on the floor, under the cushions"—she remembers the uniformed portraits and framed displays of his medals.

"I feel like being a police officer and being in the military, that was his identity," she said. "That was who he was."

On Feb. 1, Dorner received an honorable discharge, ending his lackluster 11-year Navy career.

"Maybe that's what set him off," Viskoc wondered. "That he couldn't win."

■ ■ ■

Dorner claimed his first victims on Feb. 3.

Monica Quan, 28, was an assistant women's basketball coach at California State University, Fullerton. She was also the daughter of retired LAPD Capt. Randal Quan—the man who had represented Dorner in his disciplinary hearings.

She lived in an Irvine condominium with boyfriend Keith Lawrence—a former basketball player and University of Southern California cop whose shoes and buckles she had stayed up until the wee hours polishing when he was at the police academy. On Jan. 26, Lawrence, 27, had strewn the apartment floor with rose petals, gotten down on one knee and proposed, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Just over a week later, at 9:10 p.m., Quan and Lawrence were

after a \$1 million reward was posted on Feb. 9. The Mexican navy went on alert following a report that Dorner had attempted to steal a yacht in San Diego.

Other suspected sightings of Dorner over the week led to authorities mistakenly firing on two newspaper carriers, shutting down a Navy base in San Diego, evacuating a Los Angeles area home improvement store, and raiding at a low-budget motel across the border in Tijuana, Mexico. But the manhunt was centered on the mountains. That was Jeremiah MacKay's territory.

■ ■ ■

MacKay's father, Alan, is something of a legend in these hills.

A former captain with the San Bernardino County Fire Department, the elder MacKay had played a key role during the 2003 "Old Fire," which burned more than 91,000 acres, killed five people and destroyed more than 1,000 homes. The Redlands resident put in 15-hour days, fighting the fire and acting as a department spokesman when needed.

The rambling post went on: "When the truth comes out, the killing stops."

The document would lurk in cyberspace for two more days before police discovered it and connected it to the Irvine killings. They held a news conference to name Dorner as a suspect.

The next day, Feb. 7, Dorner struck again.

Around 1:30 a.m. two LAPD officers assigned to protect one of the people named in Dorner's manifesto spotted him in the Riverside County community of Corona. During a shootout, one officer was grazed on the forehead.

A short while later in nearby Riverside, SWAT team Officer Michael Crain and trainee Andrew Tachias were in the middle of a graveyard shift.

The 34-year-old former Marine had served two tours of duty in Kuwait before joining the Riverside force in 2001. As a Marine, Crain had once taught urban warfare tactics, but on this day he had no time to react.

The two were waiting at a stop-light when someone—believed to be Dorner—raced up and opened fire on them. Tachias, 27, was critically wounded; Crain was pronounced dead at a hospital.

Before dawn, freeway signs lit up statewide with a description of Dorner and his pickup, and a warning that he should be considered armed and extremely dangerous.

Later that morning, authorities found a burned-out pickup truck near the Bear Mountain ski area in the San Bernardino Mountains. The truck, which had a broken axle, was loaded with weapons and camping gear.

Police later confirmed it was the black Nissan Titan Dorner had so religiously buffed and polished.

Tips poured in, topping 1,000

"This one, you just never know if the guy's going to pop out or where he's going to pop out," he told a reporter, crinkling his brow and shaking his head. "We're hoping this comes to a close without any more casualties. The best thing would be for him to give up."

The next day, MacKay was excited to see his photo on the front page of the Los Angeles Times. But he chided himself, cousin Kelly Mitchell says, for having what he considered "a smug look" on his face.

Jeremiah and Lynette MacKay married in late 2011. Lynette had a 7-year-old daughter from a previous relationship; about four months ago, she gave birth to a son.

As a bagpiper for the Inland Empire Emerald Society, MacKay had played at many memorials and funerals for fallen officers. He knew this hunt was perilous, but he knew just as well that Dorner had to be stopped.

And he was determined to be See POLICE KILLER on Next Page

Health & Fitness

Study: Fish in drug-tainted water suffer reaction

By JEFF DONN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON (AP)—What happens to fish that swim in waters tainted by traces of drugs that people take? When it's an anti-anxiety drug, they become hyper, anti-social and aggressive, a study found. They even get the munchies.

It may sound funny, but it could threaten the fish population and upset the delicate dynamics of the marine environment, scientists say.

The findings, published online Thursday in the journal *Science*, add to the mounting evidence that minuscule amounts of medicines in rivers and streams can alter the biology and behavior of fish and other marine animals.

POLICE KILLER

From Page 17

the one who did it.

■ ■ ■ ■

Jim and Karen Reynolds were in the process of refurbishing their condo near Big Bear, working on it off and on through the winter season. They had last been there on Feb. 6 and weren't planning to come back until Valentine's Day, but decided to check in early after learning that Dorner's truck had been abandoned nearby.

When they walked into the upstairs living room Tuesday morning, Dorner was waiting for them with his gun drawn. He had been there at least five days—within shouting distance of a command post set up by the people hunting him.

"Stay calm," he shouted. When Karen Reynolds turned to run out, he grabbed her from behind.

Karen Reynolds said Dorner was calm and "very methodical" as he instructed them to sit, then tied their hands and legs.

"I don't have a problem with you," he told the couple. "I just want to clear my name."

Dorner moved the couple to a bedroom and shut the door.

When they felt he had gone, Karen Reynolds managed to get to her feet and, with her hands still tied behind her back, open the door. To her amazement, Dorner had left her cellphone on the living room table.

She picked it up and dialed 911. It was 12:22 p.m. Tuesday.

Dorner had taken off in the couple's purple Nissan SUV. It wasn't long before officers, now alerted, spotted the fugitive.

Dorner managed to evade a group of wardens from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and some sheriff's deputies. But he later crashed the Nissan and struck out on foot.

Rick Heltebrake was driving the perimeter of a Boy Scout camp he watches over when Dorner—his bulletproof vest



AP This circa 2009 photo provided by Bent Christensen shows perch fish swimming together in Sweden.

"I think people are starting to understand that pharmaceuticals are environmental contaminants," said Dana Kolpin, a researcher for

the U.S. Geological Survey who is familiar with the study.

Calling their results alarming, the Swedish researchers who

bristling with rifle magazines—emerged from the tree line.

"I don't want to hurt you," Dorner said in a calm, business-like voice as he pointed his rifle at the 51-year-old Heltebrake. "Start walking and take your dog."

Heltebrake sensed that Dorner, who stole his truck, was on a mission, and that he wasn't part of the agenda. Suni took his 3-year-old Dalmatian and walked away.

Heltebrake had just called police when he heard gunfire.

When he left the house that morning, MacKay told his wife that he'd never been happier, Mitchell, his cousin, said. He called her the love of his life.

Hours later, he was on the trail of the stolen pickup.

The fugitive raced 25 miles down the mountain as officers converged. MacKay and his partner, Alex Collins, responded.

Not far up the road from where Dorner had left Heltebrake, some game wardens spotted the white truck speeding erratically. Dorner opened the window and fired.

According to sheriff's department officials, MacKay and his partner followed where they believed the truck had gone. They were unaware that Dorner had crashed it. They spotted tracks in the snow leading to a cabin and got out of their cruiser.

The pair stopped about 30 yards from the cabin to devise a plan when shots were fired. Neither deputy had a chance to return fire. Both were hit multiple times. A doctor told Loftis death for MacKay came instantly or in "just seconds."

Collins survived but has undergone multiple surgeries. A SWAT team arrived quickly and laid down covering fire to allow the officers to be airlifted.

Dorner set off some smoke grenades and prepared to make his last stand. His end game would play out on live television.

Officers from across the region converged on the cabin, cutting off all escape. Four hours after the

did the study suspect the little drugged fish could become easier targets for bigger fish because they are more likely to venture alone into unfamiliar places.

"We know that in a predator-prey relation, increased boldness and activity combined with decreased sociality ... means you're going to be somebody's lunch quite soon," said Gregory Moller, a toxicologist at the University of Idaho and Washington State University. "It re-

moves the natural balance."

Researchers around the world have been taking a close look at the effects of pharmaceuticals in extremely low concentrations, measured in parts per billion. Such drugs have turned up in waterways in Europe, the U.S. and elsewhere over the past decade.

They come mostly from humans and farm animals; the drugs pass through their bodies in unmetabolized form. These drug traces are then piped to water

treatment plants, which are not designed to remove them from the cleaned water that flows back into streams and rivers.

The Associated Press first reported in 2008 that the drinking water of at least 51 million Americans carries low concentrations of many common drugs. The findings were based on questionnaires sent to water utilities, which reported the presence of antibiotics, sedatives, sex hormones and other drugs.

Clues to why most survived China melamine scandal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scientists wondering why some children and not others survived one of China's worst food safety scandals have uncovered a suspect: germs that live in the gut.

In 2008, at least six babies died and 300,000 became sick after being fed infant formula that had been deliberately and illegally tainted with the industrial chemical melamine. There were some lingering puzzles: How did it cause kidney failure, and why wasn't everyone equally at risk?

A team of researchers from the U.S. and China re-examined those questions in a series of studies in rats. In findings re-

leased Wednesday, they reported that certain intestinal bacteria play a crucial role in how the body handles melamine.

The intestines of all mammals teem with different species of bacteria that perform different jobs. To see if one of those activities involves processing melamine, researchers from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Shanghai Jiao Tong University gave lab rats antibiotics to kill off some of the germs—and then fed them melamine.

The antibiotic-treated rats excreted twice as much of the melamine as rats that didn't get antibiotics, and they experi-

enced fewer kidney stones and other damage.

A closer look identified why: A particular intestinal germ—named *Klebsiella terrigena*—was metabolizing melamine to create a more toxic byproduct, the team reported in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

Previous studies have estimated that fewer than 1 percent of healthy people harbor that bacteria species. A similar fraction of melamine-exposed children in China got sick, the researchers wrote. But proving that link would require studying stool samples preserved from affected children, they cautioned.

Personal Trainer

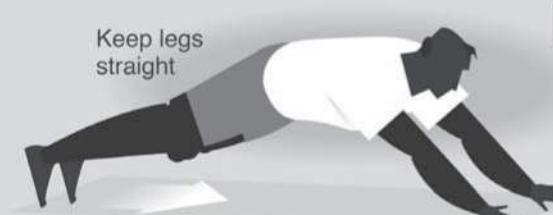
Some unusual warm-ups

The point of a pre-exercise warm-up is to increase blood flow to your muscles and gently stretch them; here are some challenging ones:

Hold hips and abdomen up
Legs straight



Keep legs straight



2 Walk feet forward in tiny steps toward your hands
Go as far as possible



3 Walk hands forward again; repeat cycle until you have moved 30 ft. (10 m)

Long lunge

1 Step far forward; put the opposite hand down beside your front foot to balance

2 Touch your other elbow to top of your foot

Keep knee above floor



3 Take a long step forward with rear foot, and repeat process on other side

Source:
Men's Health

Graphic:
Paul Trap

© 2013 MCT

Life & Style

Charlie Sheen pays for injured teen's therapy dog

MILWAUKEE (AP)—There's a 15-year-old Florida girl who didn't really know much about Charlie Sheen before this week—but does now.

The actor wired \$10,000 to Teagan Marti and her family on Thursday for a therapy dog to help in her rehabilitation from injuries sustained when she plummeted 100 feet from a Wisconsin amusement park ride in 2010.

"I think he's a very kind person for helping me and my family and very generous," Teagan Marti said by phone Thursday from her home in Parkland, Fla.

Teagan Marti suffered brain, spine, pelvis and internal injuries in July 2010 when nets and air bags that were supposed to catch riders on a free-fall ride were not raised. She had convinced her family to make the trip from Florida to Extreme World in Wisconsin Dells after seeing the amusement park's Terminal Velocity ride on the Travel Channel.

She was hospitalized in Wisconsin and Florida for three months. She initially had no use of her arms or legs but through physical therapy is able to walk again with a walker.

Teagan Marti's mother, Julie Marti, said they are financially in trouble from the medical bills and her recent divorce. Their house is being foreclosed upon



In this Feb. 1, 2013 photo, trainer Jake Guell holds an English golden retriever puppy in Fond du Lac, Wis.

and insurance isn't covering physical therapy anymore, she said. She had no idea how they would pay for the English Golden Retriever puppy.

"I'm in such disbelief," Julie Marti said. "I was crying. ... What a guy. What a guy."

The dog is being trained in

Fond du Lac to turn on lights, pick up objects and be the teen's constant companion.

Lucia Wilgus, of Eau Claire, became friends with the Martis after hearing of the accident and has spearheaded fundraising and helped find the dog and arrange training.

She sent a letter this week to Sheen through Sheen's godfather, who is a Wilgus family friend and Benedictine brother in the Benet Lake, Wis. She estimated the training and related costs would be around \$6,000.

Sheen said he decided to give more for extra costs. The request

Singer Chubby Checker files lawsuit over racy app

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—Rock and roll legend Chubby Checker is twisting mad over a software application that allowed women to estimate the size of a man's penis based on his shoe size.

The singer, whose real name is Ernest Evans, filed a trademark infringement lawsuit against Hewlett Packard and Palm Inc. in federal court in Fort Pierce, Florida, on Tuesday, saying that the app "adversely affects Chubby Checker's brand and value."

The app, which was called "The Chubby Checker," was an unauthorized use of Checker's

name and trademark, the lawsuit alleges.

"He's hurt," said Checker's attorney Willie Gary. "He worked hard to build his name and reputation over the years."

The app is no longer available.

Checker, who is 71 and lives in Pennsylvania, is seeking a half-billion dollars in damages and restitution.

HP issued a brief statement about the matter on Thursday.

"The application was removed in September 2012 and is no longer on any Palm or HP hosted web site," wrote Michael Thacker, HP's director of corpo-

rate media relations.

He told The Associated Press that the app was removed the same month that Gary sent a cease-and-desist letter to the companies on behalf of Checker.

It's unclear how long the 99-cent app was available to customers.

According to the industry website WebOSNation, the app sold fewer than 100 copies.

The app was not developed by HP or Palm; it was developed by a third-party. The app developer is not named in the lawsuit.

"We're going straight to the source," said Gary.

According to court documents, the lawsuit was filed in Florida because HP and Palm do business in the state.

Checker did not give permission or receive compensation from the app, which purported to be for entertainment purposes only.

The lawsuit said that Checker has received patents and trademark licenses for his name to be used for a line of snacks and other food products.

Checker's song, "The Twist" was at the top of the Billboard charts for 18 weeks in 1960 and became an iconic tune of the era.

Romanian movie 'Child's Pose' wins at Berlin fest

BERLIN (AP)—A Romanian drama that centers on a woman's effort to cover up her son's responsibility for an accident in which a boy is fatally injured won the Berlin film festival's top Golden Bear award on Saturday.

"Child's Pose," directed by Calin Peter Netzer, emerged as the winner from a field of 19 films that included a strong eastern European contingent this year—the 63rd edition of the event, the first of the year's major European film festivals. Netzer said he was "a little bit speechless" at the award.

The tale of corruption and guilt depicts the efforts of an up-

per-class mother, played by Luminaria Gheorghiu, to bribe witnesses to give false statements and keep her son—the driver, who was speeding at the time of the accident—out of prison.

"This is about a ... pathological relationship between mother and son," he told reporters later. "The rest is really just a backdrop," Netzer told reporters, stressing that it is "a very universal story" and that "corruption is not something which is only taking place in Romania."

A runner-up Silver Bear went to "An Episode In the Life of an Iron Picker," in which a Bosnian

Roma, or gypsy, couple re-enact their own struggle to get treatment after their baby died in the womb. The movie was made on a tiny budget by Danis Tanovic, whose "No Man's Land" won the Oscar for best foreign-language film in 2002.

Nazif Mujic, the husband, was voted best actor by the festival jury.

"Of course, I'm not an actor—I simply played my own story. I played myself in my family. I don't know what I should say," Mujic, who says that he still has no regular job and collects scrap metal as he

did at the time the drama played out, told 3sat television.

Best actress was Paulina Garcia for the title role in Chilean director Sebastian Lelio's "Gloria." Garcia plays a divorcee at the end of her 50s trying to stave off loneliness, rushing into singles' parties but struggling to overcome disappointment.

American filmmaker David Gordon Green was honored as best director for "Prince Avalanche," a movie about two road workers whiling their way through a long, monotonous summer with little more than each other for company. It's a remake of an Icelandic film, "Either Way."

had a "personal vibe" since it came through his godfather, and "if there's a need for more I told them to call me," he said.

"I like to pay it forward," Sheen said Thursday in a phone interview from Los Angeles. "People come into your orbit for a reason. You don't always know what that is ahead of time, but if I ignore these requests then I don't have any opportu-

nity to see where these things lead us, or lead me."

He said he doesn't like to publicize most of his donations, but wanted to talk about this one to inspire others to donate.

Teagan Marti gets the dog on her birthday in September but hasn't made up her mind on a name.

"I think they should name the dog Charlie," Sheen joked.

Jerry Trainor of 'iCarly' stars in new sitcom

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jerry Trainor was wrapping up five seasons as goofy big brother Spencer on Nickelodeon's "iCarly" when his next job popped up in the same TV neighborhood.

This time, Trainor moves from sidekick to star in the channel's new "Wendell & Vinnie." The sitcom features the lanky actor as a carefree single guy who becomes guardian to his orphaned nephew, Wendell (Buddy Handleson, "Shake It Up").

Vinnie is a "real dude," Trainor said, whose time is spent on video games, comic books and looking for hot dates. Wendell is a 12-year-old who's well above his uncle on the maturity scale.

Together, they're an odd couple who get by with help from each other and their extended family, including Vinnie's sister Wilma (Nicole Sullivan, "MadTV") and divorced neighbor—and Vinnie's potential love interest—Taryn (Haley Strode). The 20-episode season, debuting 8 p.m. EST Saturday,

will include guest appearances by Dan Castellaneta ("The Simpsons"), Robin Givens ("House of Payne") and Willie Garson ("Sex and the City").

Trainor, 36, said he was weighing pilot scripts when the one for "Wendell & Vinnie" came his way from writer-producer Jay Kogen ("Frasier," "Malcom in the Middle").

"I was blown away," Trainor said. "It was hilarious. ... I immediately called my manager and said this is the one."

The series has an added bonus because it's a traditional multi-camera show taped in front of a studio audience: "The fact I get to go up in front of an audience week after week, that is my drug," he said.

Trainor has made a comfortable home at Nickelodeon, with hit "iCarly," the Crazy Steve character he played on "Drake & Josh," the 2010 TV movie "Best Player" and his ongoing work on the animated comedy "T.U.F.F. Puppy" as the voice of Dudley Puppy.



This publicity photo provided by Nickelodeon shows, from left, Buddy Handleson as Wendell, Jerry Trainor as Vinnie, and Nicole Sullivan as Wilma, in the "Pilot" for the TV show, "Wendell & Vinnie," to debut on Nickelodeon on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013. AP

TV show with Pistorius' dead girlfriend airs

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Reeva Steenkamp's last wish for her family before she was shot dead at boyfriend Oscar Pistorius' home was for them to watch her in a reality TV show that went on air in South Africa on Saturday night, two days after her killing.

Sharon Steenkamp, Reeva's cousin, told The Associated Press that the model and law graduate was "proud of being in the show" and reminded them in their last conversation to make sure that they watched it.

The South African Broadcasting Corp. aired the "Tropika Island of Treasure" program, showing the late Steenkamp—the victim of a Valentine's Day shooting at the home of Pistorius, the Olympic star and double-amputee athlete. She is laughing and smiling, and blowing a kiss toward the camera in Jamaica when it was filmed last year.

South Africans also saw her swimming in the ocean and watching people jump off a cliff and into the sea, shaking her head as they leaped.

SABC said it was dedicated to Steenkamp and displayed the words "Reeva Steenkamp 19 August 1983 - 14 February 2013" between images of a rose and a candle in a short tribute before the show aired. She was also seen blowing the kiss as she sat on a Jamaican beach and her name again appeared on screen with the years of her birth and death.

The country was rocked Thursday when news broke of Steenkamp's shooting death at the upscale house of the star athlete. Pistorius was arrested and charged with her murder and remains in custody in a police station. His family has strongly denied prosecutors' claims that he murdered her.



AP
In this undated handout publicity photo supplied by Stimulii taken on the island of Jamaica, Reeva Steenkamp poses on set during the shooting of the reality show Tropika Island of Treasure which premieres on state television Saturday, Feb 16, 2013.

Stevie Wonder not happy with Lil Wayne's lyrics

ATLANTA (AP)—Stevie Wonder is not happy with Lil Wayne's vulgar lyrics that reference Emmett Till, a black U.S. teen whose murder in 1955 for allegedly whistling at a white woman changed the national conversation on race and civil rights.

The R&B legend says the rapper's disturbing verse should not have made it beyond the recording studio for the world to hear.

"You can't equate that to Emmett Till," Wonder said. "You just cannot do that. ... I think you got to have someone around you that—even if they are the same age or older—is wiser to say, 'Yo, that's not happening. Don't do that.'"

Wonder, who says he is a fan and friend of Lil Wayne, made the comments when asked what he thought of the

controversial lyrics in an interview Thursday.

On a remix to Future's song "Karate Chop," Lil Wayne compared a rough sex act to the tortuous death of 14-year-old Till in Mississippi. Following a crude reference to rough sex, Lil Wayne indicates that he wanted to do as much damage as had been done to Till.

Till's family has asked the rapper for an apology, and Epic Records, Future's label, said the official song will not feature the vulgar words and is employing "great efforts" to pull it down.

Wonder, 62, hopes the 30-year-old Grammy winner understands the perspective of the Till family and chooses his words wisely in the future.

"Sometimes people have to put themselves in the place of people who they are talking about," Wonder said.

Judge sets May trial date for Kardashian divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kim Kardashian has a due date for her baby and now a trial date for her divorce from NBA player Kris Humphries.

A judge on Friday set a May 6 trial for the reality TV star who wants to end her marriage before July, when her child with Kanye West is due.

Kardashian filed for divorce on Oct. 31, 2011, after she and Humphries had been married just 72 days. Their lavish, star-studded nuptials were recorded and broadcast by E! Entertainment Television. The trial is expected to last three to five days and could reveal details about

Kardashian's reality show empire, which includes "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" and several spinoffs.

Two judges determined Friday that Humphries' lawyers had adequate time to prepare for the trial.

Humphries wants the marriage annulled based on his claim that Kardashian only married him for the sake of her show. She denies that allegation and says the case should be resolved through what would be her second divorce.

Humphries' attorney Marshall Waller asked for a delay until basketball season is over.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Hugh Grant becomes father for 2nd time

LONDON (AP)—Hugh Grant says he has become a father for the second time. The "Four Weddings and a Funeral" star used his Twitter account to announce Saturday: "Am thrilled my daughter now has a brother. Adore them both to an uncool degree." He said both children "have a fab mum" and: "To be crystal clear, I am the Daddy." The birth was confirmed by Grant's publicist, Carrie Gordon. Grant's sometime girlfriend Tinglan Hong gave birth to the couple's daughter in 2011. Grant, 52, a critic of what he sees as press intrusion, told Britain's media ethics inquiry that he and Hong had been harassed by paparazzi when their daugh-

ter was born. He joined Twitter last year as (@)HackedOffHugh to promote press reform in the wake of Britain's tabloid phone hacking scandal.

DreamWorks partners on Russian theme parks

GLENDALE, California (AP)—DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc. says it is licensing its characters to a developer of theme parks in Russia. The Regions Group of Companies plans to open parks in St. Petersburg, Moscow and the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg in 2015. DreamWorks said Friday that the parks will be Europe's largest year-round indoor entertainment zones. The zones will be part of larger entertainment complexes, each

featuring a mixed-use movie and concert hall, a movie theater, a hotel and a retail center. Some franchises featured at the parks will include "Shrek," "Madagascar," "How to Train Your Dragon" and "Kung Fu Panda," as well as upcoming films such as "Turbo," a movie set to debut in July. DreamWorks shares were up 54 cents, or 3.2 percent, at \$17.48 in afternoon trading.

Bob Barker urges NC senators to oppose possum bill

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Former game show host Bob Barker is telling North Carolina lawmakers that caging a live possum for a New Year's Eve event in the mountains

isn't good show business. Barker wrote this week to a state Senate committee's members asking them to oppose a bill that would let the organizer of the Brasstown "Possum Drop" keep suspending a possum in a box every Dec. 31 and lowering it gently to the ground. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals complained about the event. A judge ruled state regulators don't have explicit authority to permit the display. A House bill approved this week would change that. Barker says the event is inhumane and that loopholes for animal abuse shouldn't be created. PETA released the letter. The 89-year-old Barker is a longtime animal rights activist.

Wedding dance jealousy may push potential partner away

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of one year, "Eddie," has been invited to the wedding of a waitress who works at a restaurant/bar he frequents. I was not invited. Eddie doesn't dance and has slow danced with me only once. When I told him I would not appreciate him slow dancing with anyone there, we had a heated argument. Eddie told me I have no right to tell him what to do and that I'm trying to control him.

I have run this by many people—male and female—and they all say it's inappropriate to slow dance with anyone but your significant other, especially when she's not present.

I feel Eddie has little regard for my feelings. If he really cared for me, he wouldn't want to dance with anyone else. I am interested in your thoughts.

HIS ONLY DANCE PARTNER

DEAR HIS ONLY: If you would like to "graduate" from girlfriend to fiancee, you will stop trying to control him and tell him you hope he has a good time at the wedding.

Insecurity is not an attractive trait, so calm down and recognize that a dance is only a dance. From your description of Eddie's lack of ability, I seriously doubt he will be a sought-after partner on any dance floor.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Our two children (ages 4 and 1 year) have hyphenated last names. It works well and the names sound elegant together.

My husband and I have made this known in the family and have discussed it when asked about it by various family members. However, over the last four years our choice has been ignored by two relatives from separate sides of our family. They persist in using only my husband's last name for correspondence and gifts. He has suggested returning the mail as "addressee unknown," which I think might come across as rude.

Is there any way of having our children addressed correctly by relatives who seem to want to ignore their real names?

NEW YORK MOMMY

DEAR MOMMY: Before doing it your husband's way, try this: Have another chat with the non-compliant relatives, who may come from a different generation. Explain that you gave your children hyphenated last names for a reason—that you want to be equally represented—and the omission of "your" name hurts your feelings. If that doesn't work, then go back to plan A because you don't want your children to be confused.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I will be married 25 years and have three children. In my family, my dad was the boss. I always was, too, but never was involved very much with the kids. My wife never really complained about it. She just wanted to keep the family together.

Now that the kids are gone, I realize I should have been a better husband. She mostly ignores me and spends her time with the kids and going places. I feel left out. She doesn't even want to celebrate our upcoming 25th. Should we? I know my dad drank a lot, and now I find myself thinking often about how it must have been for my mom back then.

REGRETTING IN ILLINOIS

DEAR REGRETTING: Ask your wife why she doesn't think that 25 years of marriage is something to celebrate, because it should be. She may spend her time with the kids and going places because that is what she HAS been doing for all these years.

There is still time for you to mend this marriage, provided you are both willing to work on it. However, it may take the services of a marriage counselor to break the ice.

■■■

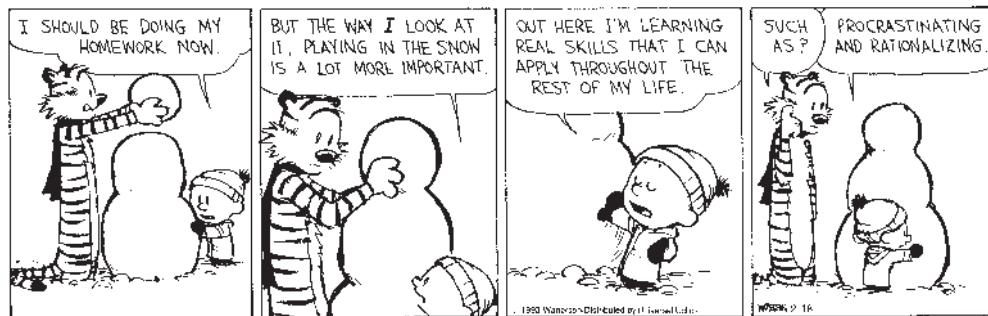
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Dear Abby

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36	British	59	Tit for —	20	As yet unpaid	21	Kelly of TV	22	Eye part	23	Hollywood	24	Wan state	25	Naive woman, on stage	26	Peaks (Abbr.)	27	Sheltered, at sea	28	Rosary component	29	Scrabble piece	30	Marsh marigold	31	First	32	Resistance measures	33	Go on momentum	34	Relinquishes	35	Lucy's pal	36	Appomattox	37	Stunner	38	Garden tool	39	Relinquishes	40	First lady	41	Science workshop	42	Lucy's pal	43	Zero	44	Science workshop	45	Stunner	46	Wicked	47	Science workshop	48	First lady	49	Science workshop	50	Science workshop	51	Science workshop	52	Science workshop	53	Science workshop	54	Science workshop	55	Science workshop	56	Science workshop	57	Science workshop	58	Science workshop	59	Science workshop	60	Science workshop	61	Science workshop	62	Science workshop	63	Science workshop	64	Science workshop	65	Science workshop	66	Science workshop	67	Science workshop	68	Science workshop	69	Science workshop	70	Science workshop	71	Science workshop	72	Science workshop	73	Science workshop	74	Science workshop	75	Science workshop	76	Science workshop	77	Science workshop	78	Science workshop	79	Science workshop	80	Science workshop	81	Science workshop	82	Science workshop	83	Science workshop	84	Science workshop	85	Science workshop	86	Science workshop	87	Science workshop	88	Science workshop	89	Science workshop	90	Science workshop	91	Science workshop	92	Science workshop	93	Science workshop	94	Science workshop	95	Science workshop	96	Science workshop	97	Science workshop	98	Science workshop	99	Science workshop	100	Science workshop	101	Science workshop	102	Science workshop	103	Science workshop	104	Science workshop	105	Science workshop	106	Science workshop	107	Science workshop	108	Science workshop	109	Science workshop	110	Science workshop	111	Science workshop	112	Science workshop	113	Science workshop	114	Science workshop	115	Science workshop	116	Science workshop	117	Science workshop	118	Science workshop	119	Science workshop	120	Science workshop	121	Science workshop	122	Science workshop	123	Science workshop	124	Science workshop	125	Science workshop	126	Science workshop	127	Science workshop	128	Science workshop	129	Science workshop	130	Science workshop	131	Science workshop	132	Science workshop	133	Science workshop	134	Science workshop	135	Science workshop	136	Science workshop	137	Science workshop	138	Science workshop	139	Science workshop	140	Science workshop	141	Science workshop	142	Science workshop	143	Science workshop	144	Science workshop	145	Science workshop	146	Science workshop	147	Science workshop	148	Science workshop	149	Science workshop	150	Science workshop	151	Science workshop	152	Science workshop	153	Science workshop	154	Science workshop	155	Science workshop	156	Science workshop	157	Science workshop	158	Science workshop	159	Science workshop	160	Science workshop	161	Science workshop	162	Science workshop	163	Science workshop	164	Science workshop	165	Science workshop	166	Science workshop	167	Science workshop	168	Science workshop	169	Science workshop	170	Science workshop	171	Science workshop	172	Science workshop	173	Science workshop	174	Science workshop	175	Science workshop	176	Science workshop	177	Science workshop	178	Science workshop	179	Science workshop	180	Science workshop	181	Science workshop	182	Science workshop	183	Science workshop	184	Science workshop	185	Science workshop	186	Science workshop	187	Science workshop	188	Science workshop	189	Science workshop	190	Science workshop	191	Science workshop	192	Science workshop	193	Science workshop	194	Science workshop	195	Science workshop	196	Science workshop	197	Science workshop	198	Science workshop	199	Science workshop	200	Science workshop	201	Science workshop	202	Science workshop	203	Science workshop	204	Science workshop	205	Science workshop	206	Science workshop	207	Science workshop	208	Science workshop	209	Science workshop	210	Science workshop	211	Science workshop	212	Science workshop	213	Science workshop	214	Science workshop	215	Science workshop	216	Science workshop	217	Science workshop	218	Science workshop	219	Science workshop	220	Science workshop	221	Science workshop	222	Science workshop	223	Science workshop	224	Science workshop	225	Science workshop	226	Science workshop	227	Science workshop	228	Science workshop	229	Science workshop	230	Science workshop	231	Science workshop	232	Science workshop	233	Science workshop	234	Science workshop	235	Science workshop	236	Science workshop	237	Science workshop	238	Science workshop	239	Science workshop	240	Science workshop	241	Science workshop	242	Science workshop	243	Science workshop	244	Science workshop	245	Science workshop	246	Science workshop	247	Science workshop	248	Science workshop	249	Science workshop	250	Science workshop	251	Science workshop	252	Science workshop	253	Science workshop	254	Science workshop	255	Science workshop	256	Science workshop	257	Science workshop	258	Science workshop	259	Science workshop	260	Science workshop	261	Science workshop	262	Science workshop	263	Science workshop	264	Science workshop	265	Science workshop	266	Science workshop	267	Science workshop	268	Science workshop	269	Science workshop	270	Science workshop	271	Science workshop	272	Science workshop	273	Science workshop	274	Science workshop	275	Science workshop	276	Science workshop	277	Science workshop	278	Science workshop	279	Science workshop	280	Science workshop	281	Science workshop	282	Science workshop	283	Science workshop	284	Science workshop	285	Science workshop	286	Science workshop	287	Science workshop	288	Science workshop	289	Science workshop	290	Science workshop	291	Science workshop	292	Science workshop	293	Science workshop	294	Science workshop	295	Science workshop	296	Science workshop	297	Science workshop	298	Science workshop	299	Science workshop	300	Science workshop	301	Science workshop	302	Science workshop	303	Science workshop	304	Science workshop	305	Science workshop	306	Science workshop	307	Science workshop	308	Science workshop	309	Science workshop	310	Science workshop	311	Science workshop	312	Science workshop	313	Science workshop	314	Science workshop	315	Science workshop	316	Science workshop	317	Science workshop	318	Science workshop	319	Science workshop	320	Science workshop	321	Science workshop	322	Science workshop	323	Science workshop	324	Science workshop	325	Science workshop	326	Science workshop	327	Science workshop	328	Science workshop	329	Science workshop	330	Science workshop	331	Science workshop	332	Science workshop	333	Science workshop	334	Science workshop	335	Science workshop	336	Science workshop	337	Science workshop	338	Science workshop	339	Science workshop	340	Science workshop	341	Science workshop	342	Science workshop	343	Science workshop	344	Science workshop	345	Science workshop	346	Science workshop	347	Science workshop	348	Science workshop	349	Science workshop	350	Science workshop	351	Science workshop	352	Science workshop	353	Science workshop	354	Science workshop	355	Science workshop	356	Science workshop	357	Science workshop	358	Science workshop	359	Science workshop	360	Science workshop	361	Science workshop	362	Science workshop	363	Science workshop	364	Science workshop	365	Science workshop	366	Science workshop	367	Science workshop	368	Science workshop	369	Science workshop	370	Science workshop	371	Science workshop	372	Science workshop	373	Science workshop	374	Science workshop	375	Science workshop	376	Science workshop	377	Science workshop	378	Science workshop	379	Science workshop	380	Science workshop	381	Science workshop	382	Science workshop	383	Science workshop	384	Science workshop	385	Science workshop	386	Science workshop	387	Science workshop	388	Science workshop	389	Science workshop	390	Science workshop	391	Science workshop	392	Science workshop	393	Science workshop	394	Science workshop	395	Science workshop	396	Science workshop	397	Science workshop	398	Science workshop	399	Science workshop	400	Science workshop	401	Science workshop	402	Science workshop	403	Science workshop	404	Science workshop	405	Science workshop	406	Science workshop	407	Science workshop	408	Science workshop	409	Science workshop	410	Science workshop	411	Science workshop	412	Science workshop	413	Science workshop	414	Science workshop	415	Science workshop	416	Science workshop	417	Science workshop	418	Science workshop	419	Science workshop	420	Science workshop	421	Science workshop	422	Science workshop	423	Science workshop	424	Science workshop	425	Science workshop	426	Science workshop	427	Science workshop	428	Science workshop	429	Science workshop	430	Science workshop	431	Science workshop	432	Science workshop	433	Science workshop	434	Science workshop	435	Science workshop	436	Science workshop	437	Science workshop	438	Science workshop	439	Science workshop	440	Science workshop	441	Science workshop	442	Science workshop	443	Science workshop	444	Science workshop	445	Science workshop	446	Science workshop	447	Science workshop	448	Science workshop	449	Science workshop	450	Science workshop	451	Science workshop	452	Science workshop	453	Science workshop	454	Science workshop	455	Science workshop	456	Science workshop	457	Science workshop	458	Science workshop	459	Science workshop	460	Science workshop	461	Science workshop	462	Science workshop	463	Science workshop	464	Science workshop	465	Science workshop	466	Science workshop	467	Science workshop	468	Science workshop	

CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: Eyedrops

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a SuperSaver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	COMBO (PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

EMPLOYMENT

Cement Laborer - \$5.55/hr Cement handling equipment exp preferred. Apply at Hanson Micronesia Cement

1 Administrative/Accounting Clerk, \$5.55 to \$6.60: Must have more than 5 years experience in accounting work; at least 1 year work experience in public accounting office; at least 4 years work experience in administrative position and exposure working with the company executives; knowledge in Quickbooks, Peachtree, FAS & tax software. Please mail your resume to P.O. Box 503198, Saipan MP 96950 (Ernst & Young (CNMI), Inc.)

EMPLOYMENT

1 Accountant: \$5.05-8.50/hr. Bachelor's degree in accounting required. Must be familiar with U.S. GAAP. Public accounting experience required. Email resume to hps@hammisapian.com.

1 Piano teacher: \$1,800/mo. Bachelor's degree in music education and at least five years of experience required. Email resume to yonsei@hammisapian.com.

1 Electrician. \$5.55/hr. Mail resume to C & H Saipan, Inc. P.O. Box 501608 Saipan, MP 96950.

EMPLOYMENT

1 Building & Grounds Maintenance. \$5.55/hr. Mail resume to Pacific International Marianas Inc. dba Midway Motors. P.O. Box 500887 Saipan, MP 96950.

Needed Admin Assistant minimum 5 yrs experience, organized, Excel, Word, PowerPoint. Bookkeeping, Quickbooks a plus. Please call N15Architects 233-5115.

2 CAD operators, minimum 5 yrs exp, ACAD v2012: one Public Utilities-Water & Wastewater; one CAD architect w/degree. Please call N15Architects 233-5115.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

YANO Enterprises, Inc. dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Cook (1): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character. Must be able to follow grooming standards. Must be able to obtain health certificate. Must be able to provide current police clearance. With reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 years experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant, MISA Bldg., 1 Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Job Vacancy Announcement (Revised February 6, 2013)

JVA No. 13-006

Opening Date: Friday, February 1, 2013
Closing Date: Until Filled

Deputy Executive Director

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:

Reporting directly to CUC's Executive Director or designee, the Deputy Executive Director ("DED") fills a position required by the Stipulated Order ("SO") of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051.

- Primarily responsible for overseeing, all drinking water and wastewater operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis, as required by the Stipulated Order. Responsible for maintaining regular contact with EPA staff regarding CWA and SDWA compliance issues. Has authority to make decisions for management and operations of the drinking water and wastewater systems.
- Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Provides staff assistance to the Executive Director to include: coordinating activities between CUC and outside organizations and agencies; researching and preparing recommendations on operational directives; and, preparing and presenting staff reports.
- Assumes full management responsibility over divisions as delegated by the Executive Director. Plans, directs and coordinates work of divisions through department heads by meeting with management to identify, prioritize and resolve problems.
- Directs and implements maintenance plans; evaluates maintenance programs to ensure maintenance standards are enforced.
- Participates on a variety of boards and committees and attends a wide variety of management meetings.
- Serves as the Executive Director when the Executive Director is out of the CNMI.
- Performs short and long-range strategic planning.
- Other duties of a similar nature or level as assigned or required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Successful candidates for CUC's Deputy Executive Director must have the following:

- Master's degree in management, engineering, finance or public administration, or, in the alternative, a bachelor's degree in engineering and registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical, or electrical branch.
- Senior management experience of at least ten (10) years desired in similar wastewater and drinking water utility (combined utility is preferred), with similar or greater capital and operating budgets, capital improvement projects, human resources needs, utility financing issues, operation and maintenance training, and implementation needs.
- A Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's Certificate is desired, but not mandatory.
- Must demonstrate: Proven management and communications skills; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; Experience with managing major water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, and construction; Experience with water and wastewater systems; user fee system development, bond funding, staff training and development, and federal drinking water and wastewater requirements.
- Experience with user fee system development and bond funding is desired, but not mandatory.
- Knowledge of: Leadership principles; Supervisory principles; Strategic planning principles; Budgetary principles; Project management principles; Applicable laws, rules and regulations.
- Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Preparing and administering budgets; Developing and administering strategic plans; Managing large, complex projects; Giving presentations; Preparing technical reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
- A CNMI driver's license or one from another U.S. jurisdiction is required.

SALARY INFORMATION:

Current salary and years of specialized experience will determine the appropriate salary level within the range of \$70,000.00 to \$130,000.00 per annum. This position is employed under a two-year contract and is both un-graded and un-classified.

POSITION:

One position on a two-year contract; subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:

If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

- United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*:
Human Resource Office
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P. O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.

- Fax: 670-235-5131

- Drop Off:
Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES:

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

South Pacific Lumber Co.

- **Warehouse Space & Equipment Rental/Sales**
- **Metal Roofing Panels for Sale**

Located in Lower Base (Industrial Area)
For inquiries, please call 989-8809

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARINA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK,) CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff,) NO. 06-0054
vs.)
DANIEL JOSEPH M. CABRERA and)
MAGDALENA S. CABRERA,)
Defendants.)

NINTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 19, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: (a) Lot No. 005 I 02, the original of which was recorded on March 11, 1983, as Document No. 16707, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan; and (b) Tract No. 225840-1-1, located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on DLS Check No. 2119/92, deeded to Daniel Muna Cabrera on August 24, 1998, and recorded as File No. 99-2096 on September 3, 1999.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 1, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 23rd day of January, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ISMAIL HOSSAIN) FCD-DI CIVIL
Petitioner,) ACTION
vs.) NO. 13-0045
HERMINA HAU) SUMMONS FOR
Respondent) PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 461 Box 10003 Saipan as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 1st day of February, 2013

/s/ Clerk of Court

Looking for a way
to tell everyone about
your business?

**You're
looking
at it!**

Saipan Tribune
235-6397

Vacancy Announcement
1-Maintenance
At least high school graduate. A valid driver's license. Ability to use efficiently various power and hand tools. Knows how to follow oral or written instructions and can communicate efficiently and fluently in both written and oral form. Submit Applications to: Saipan Apparel Printing, LLC. Tel. 235-1680

Vacancy Announcement
1-Inventory Clerk
High school diploma or general education degree; or one to 2 years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Submit Applications to: Pam Pacific Enterprises Corp. Tel. 235-7270

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

4 – HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

High school diploma with (5) years minimum work related experience. Able to operate several types of heavy equipment including but not limited to Backhoe/Loader, Road Grader, Tractor/Trailer Combo, Bulldozer, Hydraulic Crane. Load weights and check them against lifting capacities to prevent overload. Move levers, depress foot pedals, or turn dials to operate cranes, or other moving equipment for lifting, moving, or placing loads. Learn and follow safety regulations. Take actions to avoid potential hazards or obstructions, such as utility lines, other equipment, other workers, or falling objects. Clean, lubricate and inspect mechanisms or accessories such as cables, pulleys, or grappling devices to prevent malfunctions or damage. Perform routine maintenance of equipment. Must have knowledge in troubleshooting and able to diagnose problem or malfunction and make repairs as necessary.

Interested qualified applicants can submit their resume and latest police clearance via e-mail to saipan@aicconstruction.com or mail to AIC Marianas, Inc., PMB 564 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950. Closing Date: February 21, 2013

Dynamic Airways is coming to Saipan!

Buckle your seatbelt and prepare for your career to take off! We are looking for outgoing, dependable applicants that are FLUENT in Chinese, Japanese, or Korean and English. Our flight attendants are the face of the company and must be passionate about maximizing customer service while elevating the Dynamic Airways brand. **Requirements:** 18 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent, eligible to work in the United States without sponsorship, have valid passport/documents with the ability to travel in and out of the USA, able to attend and successfully complete a 3 week training course, and maintain a professional and conservative appearance at all times.

Applicants interested in this exciting opportunity can apply by emailing their resume to: dynamicalways@yahoo.com. Please include "Saipan" in the subject box.

St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.**(01) NURSE SUPERVISOR**

- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License.
- Attended a hemodialysis training program and management of hemodialysis inpatient and outpatient care.
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- At least four years hemodialysis experience and plus three year as a charge nurse in dialysis.
- English Language skill-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- Certified Nephrology Nurse-(CNN) Preferred.
- In-service train with Baxter Phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan or for more information, please call Judy Arriola at 234-2903 ext. 124.

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY INC.**(01) BUILDING MAINTENANCE & REPAIR**

- Performs a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair tasks.
- Performs preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing, security systems, solar panel maintenance and construction with solester inverter experience.
- Performs rough and finish carpentry work and takes the lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and partitions.
- Maintains and repairs various equipment.
- High school graduate or equivalent.
- Prefer skills training in electrical, plumbing and other building trades areas.
- Extensive work experience with hemodialysis/maintenance is required.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Must have a valid driver's license.
- Flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit resume or application to St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan or for more information, please contact Judy Arriola a 234-2903 ext 124.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Opening Date: Friday, February 1, 2013
Closing Date: Until Filled

Associate Engineer**RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:**

Position reports directly to CUC's Chief Engineer or his/her designee in the Engineering Section of the Water and Wastewater Divisions. This is a position required by the Stipulated Order ("SO") of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051. Position is also known as the Drinking Water and Wastewater Associate Engineer ("AE"). Examples of duties:

- Coordinate and meet with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervise engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Review work performed by engineering technicians.
- Perform project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and letters, recommendations; develop scopes of work; provide technical reviews; surveying for projects; schedule project elements; evaluate proposals; monitor project progress and project funds; and, recommend selection of projects.
- Prepare engineering calculations, plans and specifications; design water and wastewater facilities and other utility related facilities; collect data and perform research.
- Troubleshoot systems and equipment.
- Manage construction and perform contract management activities including evaluating bids, correspondence with contractors and contracting officer, reviewing submittals, interpreting drawings and technical specifications, responding to contractor inquiries, evaluating work for compliance with contract provisions, processing payment requests, inspecting construction and other related tasks.
- Other duties of a similar nature or level as assigned or required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Succesful candidates for CUC's Associate Engineer must have the following:

- Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or Environmental Engineering, (or Mechanical Engineering if 5 years work experience in design and management of water and sewer facilities can be proven). Experience of eight (8) or more years of work as an engineer, and a minimum of five (5) years work experience in water and sewer related projects. Must demonstrate competency in overseeing drinking water systems and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, construction, and in maintenance of water and wastewater system components.
- Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction methods and techniques; Engineering principles and practices.
- Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and pertinent software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
- A CNMI driver's license or one from another U.S. jurisdiction is required.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATION:

• Professional Engineer's license in Civil, Environmental or Mechanical fields from the CNMI, Guam, the District of Columbia, or any state of the U.S.

SALARY INFORMATION:

Current salary and years of specialized experience will determine the appropriate salary level within the range of \$60,000.00 to \$100,000.00 per annum. This position is employed under a two-year contract and is both ungraded and unclassified.

POSITION:

One position on a two-year contract; subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:

If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*:
Human Resource Office
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.

2. Fax: 670-235-5131

3. Drop Off:
Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES:

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Opening Date: Friday, February 1, 2013
Closing Date: Until Filled

DIRECT RESPONSIBLE CHARGE OPERATOR

WASTEWATER TREATMENT LEVEL 2 CERTIFIED

JVA No. 13-016

DUTIES:

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), a U.S. commonwealth in the western Pacific. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, installations and/or repairs in service area assigned. Inspects equipment and determines if any repairs are needed. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Positions assigned to Wastewater are also responsible for: Cleaning, maintaining, repairing and painting submersible pumps; Lifting, inspecting and replacing submersible pumps; Rewinding motors for emergency purposes; Fabricating, welding, and bypassing pumps and pipes to ensure operation; Troubleshooting treatment plant problems; Performing maintenance and repairs on generators; Operating Vactor trucks; Monitoring and performing preventive maintenance on sewer lines, manholes and lift stations; Taking treatment plant readings and performing adjustments; Troubleshooting and maintaining control panels; Running sludge by oiling and cleaning the filter press. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. This is a Direct Responsible Charge (DRC Operator) position required by Stipulated Order Number One of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Wastewater Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: \$32,500.00 to \$42,500 per year; Plus overtime; Un-classified. Current salary and specific experience will be used to determine pay rate at entry.

RELOCATION: If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

POSITIONS: One (1).

CONTRACT: Two-year; subject to renewal

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Licensing Requirement: Wastewater Treatment Level Two Certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or from an authorized alternative (such as from the NMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ)). Also required is a CNMI Driver's License or one from another U.S. jurisdiction. Education: High School Diploma, or General Education Diploma or Adult School Diploma through a U.S. state or territory Adult Basic Education program, "and" four (4) years of increasingly responsible experience related to the area assigned. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*:
Human Resource Office
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.

2. Fax: 670-235-5131

3. Drop Off: Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES:

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

Ross beats Evans in dunk contest

H O U S T O N
(AP)—Terrence Ross had to settle his nerves at the start of the All-Star dunk contest. By the end, he was calming down a ball boy he needed as a prop for his winning slam.

The 6-foot-6 Toronto rookie leapfrogged Michael Costolo, the son of Twitter CEO Dick Costolo, whipped the ball between his legs and hammered home a one-handed dunk to beat defending champion Jeremy Evans in the climax to All-Star Saturday.

"I told him the day before that I was going to jump over him, but I never told him I was going to go through the legs," Ross said. "He was kind of nervous. When I first grabbed him, he said, 'You're not going to hit me, right?' I said, 'No, I'm not going to hit you.'"

Ross seemed to be unsure of himself in the beginning, botching his first three dunk attempts in the first round. The crowd exploded when he finally pulled it off—flicking the ball behind his back on the way up and hammering home a one-handed dunk.

He earned a perfect 50 and immediately relaxed.

"This is honestly my first really big dunk contest, so I was nervous," said Ross, the eighth overall pick in last year's draft out of Washington. "And not making a dunk didn't make it easy. I had to get myself together."

Ross earned 58 percent of the fan vote in the championship round, outdoing Evans' prop-filled display. Evans leaped over a painted portrait of himself and former Jazz giant Mark Eaton, who sat on a box and held up the ball for Evans to swipe on his way to the rim.

Kenneth Faried, James White, 2007 dunk champion Gerald Green and Eric Bledsoe also were in the field, while Kevin Durant, Kobe Bryant, Chris Paul and Dwyane Wade were among the All-Stars taking in the show.

Green started off by taking a lob from Indiana teammate Lance Stephenson off the side of the backboard and soaring in for a reverse slam. White played off his "Flight White" nickname when he split two columns of cheerleaders dressed as flight attendants for a powerful two-handed dunk.

Hall of Famers Bill Russell and Julius Erving, singer Alicia Keys, rapper Drake, director Spike Lee and comedian Chris Tucker were among those sitting courtside. Keys is performing at halftime of Sunday's All-Star game.

Earlier, Cleveland guard Kyrie Irving beat San Antonio's Matt Bonner to win the 3-point contest. Irving, who



will play in his first All-Star game on Sunday, hit his first seven attempts and 20 of 25 overall in the final round to finish with 23 points, two shy of the record held by Craig Hodges and Jason Kapono.

Irving also played in the Rising Stars Challenge on Friday night, scoring 32 points. He came into the weekend with the goal of making a big splash.

"Yeah, this weekend was just basically about earning everybody's respect, and getting a chance for people to see me that don't usually see me," Irving said. "We're not nationally televised. This weekend is to show my face to the fans and get everybody acclimated to my face in the league."

Portland rookie Damian Lillard beat Philadelphia's Jrue Holiday to win the Skills Competition. Players navigated through a dribbling circuit, had to make a jumper from the top of the key and hit passing targets. Lillard finished the course in 29.8 seconds. Holiday's time was 35.6 seconds.

"I think the biggest thing for me was to try not to be too cool and speed through it," Lillard said, "but take my time

with the passes and shots."

Houston point guard Jeremy Lin and defending champion Tony Parker also were in the field, but didn't come close to qualifying for the championship round.

In the first competition of the night, the trio of Miami's Chris Bosh, WNBA star Swin Cash and Hall of Famer Dominique Wilkins won the Shooting Stars competition, beating a team of Oklahoma City guard Russell Westbrook, WNBA star Maya Moore and former Houston Rocket Robert Horry.

Each team had two minutes to make shots from six locations on the floor, including one from half-court. Wilkins sank a half-court shot for a team time of 1 minute, 29 seconds. Westbrook rimmed out several half-court tries and time ran out before he and his teammates could make one.

The NBA tweaked the scoring format for this year's All-Star skills exhibitions, with teams representing the East and West competing for charities. The Western Conference defeated the East 140-125. The West earned \$350,000 for charity and the East earned \$150,000.

Terrence Ross of the Toronto Raptors goes up at the dunk contest during NBA All-Star Saturday Night basketball in Houston on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013.

AP

Hunter voted out as head of NBA players' union

HOUSTON (AP)—Billy Hunter was ousted from his job as executive director of the union in a unanimous vote by NBA players who said Saturday they will "no longer be divided, misled, misinformed."

"This is our union and we have taken it back," players' association president Derek Fisher said.

Fisher said it was a day of change for the union, which has seemed inevitable since a review of the union last month was critical of Hunter's leadership and urged players to consider whether they wanted to keep him.

They didn't.

"We want to make it clear that we are here to serve only the best interests of the players," Fisher said. "No threats, no lies, no distractions will stop us from serving our memberships."

Hunter said in a statement that he hadn't received word of his dismissal and blasted the interim executive committee for the process it followed, saying "certain individuals made sure the outcome was pre-ordained."

"In addition, given the legitimate legal and governance questions surrounding the eligibility of the members who voted and the adherence, or lack thereof, to the constitution and bylaws, I do not consider

today's vote the end, only a different beginning," Hunter said. "My legal representatives and I will resume communication with the NBPA to determine how to best move forward in the best interests of all parties."

In brief remarks, Fisher said a new executive committee was elected and he will remain as president. The Spurs' Matt Bonner is vice president, Miami's James Jones is secretary-treasurer and the Nets' Jerry Stackhouse the first vice president. The Clippers' Chris Paul, Golden State's Stephen Curry, Denver's Andre Iguodala, the Hornets' Roger Mason, Jr. and the Clippers' Willie Green are vice presidents.

Hunter had led the union since 1996, guiding the players through three collective bargaining agreements and helping bring their average salaries to more than \$5 million, highest in team sports. But Fisher pushed for the review after a falling out between the two leaders, and though it found Hunter wasn't guilty of any criminal activity involving union funds, it cited a number of conflicts of interests and poor choices that led the players to remove him.

Commissioner David Stern was aware of the union's actions but had little comment.

"We await notification from

the union as to who we should be dealing with because it has been a principle of faith with us that we will deal with whom-ever the union tells us to deal with," Stern said.

Released in January, the review conducted by the law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP criticized Hunter for hiring family members and friends. It said he knew his 2010 contract extension wasn't properly ratified by union rules, and raised questions about everything from travel expenses to the amount he spent on gifts.

Players acted quickly, putting

Hunter on a leave of absence on Feb. 1. He hoped to be invited to Saturday's annual meeting, which included about 35 players, superstar LeBron James among them.

But Hunter's attorneys said their client was told he wouldn't be welcomed. They said his contract was legal and indicated there could be a lawsuit if the players removed him and attempted to withhold the more than \$10 million that remains on his salary.

"We do not doubt that this process will possibly continue in an ugly way," said Fisher, who then reminded reporters that there are three ongoing government investigations

into Hunter, likely the reason he didn't take questions after his remarks.

It's a swift fall for the 70-year-old Hunter, a former athlete who was well-respected by many players. But agents didn't like him, questioning his bargaining strategies and frustrated they didn't have a bigger role in his union.

Hunter's family did, and that was another central issue of the report. He had since fired his daughter and daughter-in-law, and cut ties with a financial institution that employed his son. He also instituted an anti-nepotism policy at the NBPA.

"After 17 years of representing NBA players during CBA negotiations and defending their rights in other proceedings, not once was there an occasion where one side was denied an opportunity to be heard," Hunter said. "The current interim regime in control of the NBPA has set a terrible precedent for the union. It violates every tenet of fairness upon which the union was founded. Now that this has occurred, I will continue to examine all of my options, including whether the fairness that was absent from the NBPA process might be available in a different forum."

Fisher, Paul, Bonner, Mason and Jones were holdovers from the previous executive com-

mittee. Stackhouse, who along with James was vocal during the meeting, joins Iguodala, Curry and Green among the newcomers.

Fisher and Hunter clashed during the 2011 lockout and their fractured relationship divided the union. Hunter originally persuaded the executive committee to vote to request Fisher's resignation last year. Fisher did not resign and instead pushed for the outside review, which lasted more than eight months and cost the union more than \$4 million.

The law firm reviewed NBPA documents and emails, and interviewed more than three dozen witnesses. It found that Hunter spent more than \$100,000 on gifts for executive committee members—including a watch worth more than \$20,000 for Fisher before their falling out—and accepted a payout of \$1.3 million for unused vacation time when records made it unclear how his time off was kept.

Fisher remains president even though he isn't on an NBA roster, having asked the Dallas Mavericks for his release after a brief stint earlier this season. He gave no update on what would happen to the executive director position. Union attorney Ron Klempner was appointed to the position on an interim basis when Hunter was placed on leave.

Pistorius' family strongly denies murder charge

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—Oscar Pistorius is “numb with shock as well as grief” after the shooting death of his model girlfriend at his home in South Africa, the runner’s uncle said Saturday, as his family strongly denied prosecutors’ claims that he murdered her.

Arnold Pistorius spoke with The Associated Press and two other South African journalists about his nephew’s arrest in the killing of Reeva Steenkamp, who was shot four times on the morning of Valentine’s Day. Arnold Pistorius spoke to reporters from the garden of his three-story home in the eastern suburbs of South Africa’s capital, Pretoria.

The statement, the first on camera and directly made in person by Pistorius’ family, also came out strongly against prosecutors seeking to upgrade the charge against Pistorius to one of premeditated murder, which carries a sentence of life in prison.

“After consulting with legal representatives, we deeply regret the allegation of premeditated murder,” Arnold Pistorius said. “We have no doubt there is no substance to the allegation and that the state’s own case, including its own forensic evidence, strongly refutes any possibility of a premeditated murder or murder as such.”

He said the family was “battling to come to terms with Oscar being charged with murder.”

The track star’s arrest in the killing of 29-year-old Steenkamp shocked South Africa, where Pistorius was a national hero and icon dubbed the Blade Runner for his high-tech carbon fiber running blades and revered for overcoming his disability to compete at the London Olympics. She was discovered in a pool of blood before dawn Thursday by police called to Pistorius’ upscale home in a gated community. Authorities said she had been shot four times, and a 9 mm pistol was recovered at the home.

Pistorius remains held at a police station pending a bail hearing Tuesday. Police have already said they’ll oppose Pistorius being released before trial. A premeditated murder charge also makes it more difficult for his defense team to get bail.

On Saturday afternoon, Pistorius’ lawyers visited the Brooklyn police station in Pretoria, where the athlete is being held. His younger sister Aimee, who stood alongside Arnold Pistorius when he made his statement, also was at the police station later.

There will be a variety of hearings before Pistorius, 26, could go on trial. In South Africa, there are no juries, so a judge ultimately would decide Pistorius’ guilt or innocence, sometimes with the help of two advisers. At an initial hearing Friday, Pistorius sobbed and



South African athlete Oscar Pistorius reacts, in court in Pretoria, South Africa, Friday, Feb 15, 2013, at his bail hearing in the murder case of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.

held his head in his hands at times. He has yet to enter a plea in the case.

The family denial that Pistorius committed murder doesn’t necessarily mean that they say he didn’t shoot her, as murder is a legal term. Initial speculation immediately after the shooting Thursday suggested that it could have been accidental, though police say they are not currently considering that.

Arnold Pistorius did not discuss the circumstances of the shooting, but said that his nephew and Steenkamp had become very close since they started dating in November.

“They had plans together and Oscar was happier in his private life than he had been for a long time,” the uncle said.

As Arnold Pistorius read his statement, Pistorius’ sister Aimee stood nearby and broke down in tears at one point. Her uncle stopped reading for a moment to put his right arm around her. Pistorius remains very close with his uncle, a man he once lived with as a teenager.

“Words cannot adequately describe our feelings,” his uncle said. “The lives of our entire family have been turned upside down forever by this unimaginable human tragedy and Reeva’s family have suffered a terrible loss. As a family we are trying to be strong and supportive to Oscar as any close family would be in these dreadful circumstances.”

The entire family was “dev-

astated,” Pistorius’ uncle said, and was “grieving for Reeva, her family and her friends.”

Since news of the killing, shock waves have rippled across South Africa, a nation of 50 million where nearly 50 people are killed each day, one of the world’s highest murder rates. U.N. statistics say the nation has the second highest rate of shooting deaths in the world, behind only Colombia. Others have focused their attention on Pistorius and his fascination with fast cars, cage fighting and firearms.

Steenkamp, who graduated from law school, is known in South Africa for appearing in commercials and as a bikini-clad model in men’s magazines. On Saturday, South Africa’s state broadcaster SABC planned to air a reality TV show featuring the model. Another portion of the show released earlier Saturday included a clip of her swimming with two dolphins, which tap her on the cheek with their snouts.

“I think the way that you go out, not just your journey in life, but the way that you go out and the way you make your exit is so important,” the blonde-haired Steenkamp says in the video. “You either made an impact in a positive or a negative way, but just maintain integrity and maintain class and just remain true to yourself.”

“I’m going to miss you all so much and I love you very, very much.”

Wake Forest the year Haas graduated, figures Haas will have to make a few mistakes for anyone to make a big move.

“I think Bill is in a position, if he keeps a three-shot lead and goes and plays well again, that it’s going to be hard to catch him,” Simpson said. “But with

the golf course this tricky, you get a guy that has a good front nine, he could be tied or even in the lead with nine to go. So anything can happen tomorrow.”

“I was just kind of plugging along out there and then all of a sudden, made a nice putt at 9, chip-in at 10, good up-and-down at 11,” he said.

And off he went.

The birdie putt on the ninth was about 30 feet, and Haas had to play it outside the hole and hit it with purpose. It broke sharply into the cup, and then he hit 3-wood off the tee on the 10th, leaving it some 10 yards short of the green with the left pin. He had seen Greg Chalmers play a pitch from about the same area to 6 feet short of the hole and figured that was a good play—

anything that rolled by the hole was likely to keep going off the green and down into a valley.

Haas hit an even better shot, landing it about 15 feet short of the hole and watching it roll into the cup. He hit his second shot into a bunker near the green on the par-5 11th and got that close for birdie, and later in his round, he splashed out of the sand on the par-5 17th to inside a foot for his final birdie.

Simpson, who arrived at

Haas shoots 64 to take lead at Riviera

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bill Haas had no reason to think this round at Riviera was going to be anything special.

With an iron in his hand, he failed to make birdie on the par-5 opening hole, the easiest on the golf course. Solid iron shots led to a pair of birdies on the front nine, and with Riviera playing tough in warm, dry conditions on Saturday, he was part of a large group challenging for the lead.

Three holes changed everything. Haas made a tough 30-footer for birdie on No. 9. He pitched in from 60 feet for eagle on the scary par-4 10th. And he hit a good bunker shot with little margin for error on the par-5 11th that set up a birdie.

Just like that, he was on his way to a 7-under 64 and a three-shot lead going into the final round of the Northern Trust Open.

His 64 was the best round of a difficult day by three shots, and it was nearly eight shots better than the average score. It put Haas at 12-under 201, leaving him in good position to become only the eighth back-to-back winner in the 76-year history of this tournament.

All he cares about Sunday is winning.

“It’s very difficult in this game to just pull away from the rest of the field,” Haas said. “You’ve only seen a few guys ever really do that, and those are guys like Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson. So I think I’ve just got to stay in the moment, don’t let my emotions get the best of me.”

A year ago, Haas was two shots behind going into the final round and wound up winning in a playoff over Mickelson and Keegan Bradley. This time, he has a comfortable margin over U.S.

Open champion Webb Simpson and former Masters champion Charl Schwartzel, who each thought they did well for a 68.

John Merrick bogeyed the 18th hole for a 70 and joined Simpson and Schwartzel at 9-under 204.

Luke Donald overcame a sloppy start—three bogeys in a six-hole stretch—with four birdies on the back nine to salvage a 70 that put him four shots behind, along with Fredrik Jacobson (72).

Mickelson was hopeful of making a move and instead went the other direction. He

missed three par putts of about 6 feet on the front nine and had a 72, putting him nine shots behind. Ernie Els, playing with Mickelson, also dropped shots early and dropped out of the hunt with a 73.

The round started with 20 players separated by five shots. Thanks to Haas and his flawless play, only eight players were within five of the lead.

It might not be easy for anyone to catch up to Haas if the sunshine continues to bake Riviera. The fairways were so

firm that tee shots were running some 50 yards after they landed, and the greens were firm enough that balls ran out an extra two feet around the hole.

“I had a lot of 3- and 4-footers for par,” Simpson said.

He was pleased with his round of 68 that included only one bogey, but when Simpson pulled out his cellphone to check the leaderboard as he sat down for lunch, he saw Haas on top with a 64.

“So he played great,” Simpson said.

Most impressive about how Haas has gone around Riviera in the last few days is 40 consecu-

 Northern Trust
Open

BRAVES

From Page 28

the Lions, 10-2; and X-clusive run-ruled the Fielders, 11-1, in five innings.

The season continues at the Tan Ko Field tomorrow at 6pm with a Big League matchup featuring the Fielders against the Rays.

BIG DIVISION
Braves 4, Ol'Aces 1

The Braves broke the ice in the first inning as Peter Lieto drew a one-out walk and stole second base before being brought home off a double by Greg Iskawa.

They then added three more runs in the third inning off four hits, a walk, and a pair of fielder's choices. Lieto and Iskawa were each credited with RBI singles.

The Ol'Aces' lone run came in the top of the fourth off a double by John Santos, but the Braves defense did a good job avoiding a late rally in the last three frames.

Iskawa batted 3-for-3 with an RBI and a run. Ol'Aces' Jared Sablan swung 2-for-3.

Braves 6, Fielders 5

The home team Braves sat on a 2-0 lead from two hits in the first inning for five exchanges until the Fielders tied it up in the top of the sixth off a two-out single by Leroy Regis that was followed by a walk and an RBI triple by Joe Atalig.

Then the match went into bonus frames as both teams managed to bring in a run in the last inning of regulation.

Fielders' Arthur Jebbeh delivered Steven Aguon home with a sacrifice fly, while

Braves' Lemarc Iguel singled in Brandon Lieto.

Then the Fielders' Ricardo Dela Cruz cracked a two-run homer in the top of the eighth that brought around Poland Masaaru. However, the Braves stopped the bleeding and managed to bring in three runs for the win in the bottom side.

Peter Lieto led off with a triple and scored off a double by Robert Tudela who stole third base and scored off a dropped third strike that boarded Vince Torres.

Torres would make it all the way around as the Fielders struggled to find the strike zone.

Winning pitcher Peter Lieto gave up two runs, one earned, off four hits, and two walks with six strikeouts through six innings.

Padres 9, Ol'Aces 7

The Padres took a 5-0 lead in the first inning off two hits, two walks, a fielder's choice, and some untimely errors, but the Ol'Aces countered with two runs in the second inning from a two-RBI base knock by ninth batter Dave Hosono.

The Ol'Aces tried to make a comeback, 3-5, in the top of the fourth inning off a base rip by Jonathan Indelacio, but the Padres answered in the bottom frame and went ahead, 7-3.

Ray Tenorio led off with a walk and scored off a wild pitch, while A.J. Lizama singled on and was doubled in by Jordan Pangelinan.

Ol'Aces' Jake Flores was grounded home after leading off the fifth with a triple, and his crew briefly tied the match at 7-up with three more runs in the sixth inning off three hits, a

walk, and a bean ball.

Jonah Flores singled on and scored off a wild pitch, while Jake Santos and Jake Flores each logged RBI singles.

The Padres did not panic, however, and reclaimed the lead in the bottom side off a trio of hits, including an RBI triple by Carl Camacho and an RBI base hit by Pangelinan.

The defending champs then did a good job holding strong for the last three outs.

JUNIOR DIVISION
Red Sox 8, Falcons 2

Red Sox's Craig Aguon belted a one-out triple and was grounded to the dish for first blood and the group went on to add two more runs in the third inning off a hit, a fielder's choice, and some errors, scoring Jobe Reyes and Aguon.

Then the Red Sox trudged forward, 6-0, on the top of the fourth inning off a string of six hits, including RBI singles by Delin Ruesora, Reyes, and Vicente Leon Guerrero that were sandwiched between a pair of doubles by Jose Tydingco and Ryan Aguon.

The Falcons were only able to answer with 1 run in the bottom frame and then sifted out its final run in the following exchange, however the Red Sox ended up getting them back.

Red Sox's Jonathon Sagun batted 2-for-3 with a run and a stolen base

Winning pitcher Craig Aguon went the distance and gave up two runs, one earned off, a hit, eight walks, and a hit-by-pitch with 11 strikeouts.

Enforcers 10, Lions 2

The Enforcers racked up four

runs in the first inning off three hits and an RBI fielder's choice by Cedric Camacho. Juan Quituaga reached on an error and stole home, while Kier Agda jacked a RBI double that was followed by an RBI base knock by Jeff Dela Cruz.

The Enforcers then added two more runs in the second inning off a leadoff double by Franklin Lizama and a triple by Camacho.

The group led it, 8-1, after the fourth inning and picked up two more runs later in the fifth as they coasted through the last two frames.

Winning pitcher Agda logged a complete game and gave up two earned runs off five hits and a hit-by-pitch with nine strikeouts.

Lizama batted 3-for-3 with a base on balls for four runs; Dela Cruz went 2-for-2 with an RBI, two base on balls, a run, and a stolen base. Lions' Ben Maratita batted 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run.

X-clusive 11, Fielders 1

X-clusive held a solid 5-1 lead after three innings with a trio of runs in the first inning off two walks and two hits followed by a pair of runs to start the third frame thanks to some sketchy pitching as the Fielder's brought its third hurler to the hump early on.

The Fielders managed to produce a run in the bottom frame, but X-clusive jolted ahead, 10-1, in the fourth inning off just one hit followed by a handful of walks and some errors. Marvin Lopez bagged a two-RBI single.

X-clusive's Jay Kalen scored four times, one-upping his teammate Allen Cepeda

FINALS

From Page 28

Jon Posner in Week 1, 8-2, marched into the finals after a walkover win over Dong Min Lee, while Rai prevailed over Rafael Jones in the other semis pairing.

In the girls U12 finals, Tania Tan meets Malika Miyawaki. Tan was way ahead of Asia Raulerson in their semis duel in the upper half of the draw last Saturday, 5-0, when the latter was forced to retire due to a minor injury. Miyawaki had a full game in the lower half of the bracket and booted out Grace Choi, 6-2.

EASY

From Page 28

3-3 record, sealing its third win early in the fourth quarter after Cell Pro hung around in the first three period. Cell Pro faced a manageable 11-point deficit at the end of the third canto, 46-57, but folded up completely in the fourth period when it was held scoreless in the first four minutes of the final frame.

With Cell Pro missing one shot after another in the early goings of the fourth quarter, Docomo's lead ballooned to 23, 69-46. Eugene Mangali led the breakaway, scoring 6 of Docomo's first 12 points.

Mangali and Docomo's three other starters then sat out in the final half of the fourth period with the team's over 20-point lead intact and Cell Pro getting its first basket in that canto off Bernard Montano's jumper. The remaining half of the fourth was then played just to wait for the final score, as Cell Pro fell to a 1-2 slate.

Mangali paced Docomo with his 19 points, while Marlon Sison chipped in 14. Montano was the lone double-figure scorer for Cell Pro with his 19 markers.

In Division B, Shane Deleon Guerrero and Lester Vertudez teamed up in the lopsided win for Adobo with the former firing a game-high 22 points and the latter contributing 21.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**NORTHERN TRUST OPEN SCORES**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Scores Saturday in the Northern Trust Open, a US PGA Tour event at the 7,349-yard, par-71 Riviera Country Club:

THIRD ROUND

Bill Haas	70-67-64	-201
Webb Simpson	70-66-68	-204
Charl Schwartzel	69-67-68	-204
John Merrick	68-66-70	-204
Luke Donald	69-66-70	-205
Frederik Jacobson	68-65-72	-205
Josh Teater	70-68-68	-206
Charlie Beljan	67-71-68	-206
Hunter Mahan	70-69-68	-207
Sergio Garcia	65-73-69	-207
Adam Scott	71-67-70	-208
Ryan Moore	70-67-71	-208
Jim Furyk	68-72-69	-209
Graham DeLaet	72-68-69	-209
Ted Potter, Jr.	71-67-71	-209
Sang-Moon Bae	68-65-71	-209
Keegan Bradley	71-70-69	-210
Greg Owen	69-71-70	-210
Phil Mickelson	71-67-72	-210
Stewart Cink	71-72-67	-210
Lee Westwood	68-68-74	-210
Jimmy Walker	70-70-71	-211
Jeremiah Woodring	75-66-70	-211
Luke Guthrie	69-71-71	-211
Seung-Yul Noh	70-70-71	-211
Blayne Barber	69-70-72	-211
Trevor Immelman	70-69-72	-211
Justin Leonard	70-73-68	-211
Kevin Stadler	72-71-68	-211
Ernie Els	70-68-73	-211
Ross Fisher	72-71-68	-211
Greg Chalmers	69-69-73	-211
Matt Kuchar	64-73-74	-211
John Rollins	69-65-77	-211
Angel Cabrera	69-72-71	-212
Charlie Wi	75-66-71	-212

The girls U15 semis games were also completed last Saturday with Carol Lee blanking Liza Atalig, 8-0, to advance against Heras, who thwarted Emily Jones, 8-3.

Meanwhile, in the two divisions (girls U18 and U10) with a round-robin format, Jireh Warren, Negahr Rastguyi, and Mikayla Lopez boosted their chances for the championship.

Warren is unbeaten after two games and a win over Erika Tuttle today will give her the girls U12 championship. Lopez and Rastguyi are also undefeated after two matches and they collide today at 1pm to decide the winner of the girls U18 tiara.

Deleon Guerrero nailed 10 of his total points in the second canto, while Vertudez added 9, helping Adobo turn a 15-7 advantage to a 36-20 halftime lead. Adobo went on to protect its double-digit lead in the second half, as Vertudez and Deleon Guerrero continued to burn the hoops and also drew help from Mike Saturno, who knocked in 10 of his 15 markers in the 20 minutes of the one-sided match.

Susupe never had a chance against Adobo, as it played with a depleted lineup and could not keep up with its much younger and faster opponent. The losing squad had only six players and only four made it to the scoreboard. Juluis Tabamo paced Susupe (1-4) with his 21 points.

First Game

Adobo 82 — Deleon Guerrero 22, Vertudez 21, Saturno 15, Dela Cruz 8, Tadifa 4, Yap 3, Aglipay 2, Orejola 2.

Susupe 62 — Tabamo 20, Lansang 14, Cadag 12, Mina 11.

Scoring by quarters: 15-7, 36-20, 55-41, 82-62.

Second Game

Docomo 77 — Mangali 19, Sison 14, Metran 8, Sablan 8, Sacramento 7, Cruz 6, Hernandez 4, Barbo 4.

Cell Pro 57 — Montano 19, Sacramento 9, Santos 8, Dayrit 7, De Dios 6, Iglesias 4, Loste 4.

Scoring by quarters: 22-18, 40-35, 57-46, 77-57.

RAYS

From Page 28

The varsity Rays extended its flawless streak to five wins in a row, while the Dolphins dipped to a win-loss card of 5-2, but remained in second place in the standings.

The Kagman High School Ayuyus (3-3), Eucon International School Blazers (1-5), and Mount Carmel School Knights (1-5) complete the field.

MHS is dominating the junior class and improved its undefeated run to seven in a row.

The Agape Christian School Torchbearers (3-4), KHS (2-3), SSHS (2-3), and the Saipan International School Geckos (0-4) are all trailing at a distance.

MHS also has a hold on first place in freshmen play with a solid record of 3-1 that fronts KHS (2-2) and SSHS (1-2).

There are no games scheduled for today as the season continues tomorrow at 4pm at the MHS Gym with a junior pairing between ACS and KHS followed by the main varsity ticket featuring Eucon versus KHS at 5:30pm.

The varsity match started out in a 21-all deadlock after the opening 10 minutes and

remained anyone's game at intermission.

SSHS' Jack Aranda and Emerson Feria teamed up for a baker's dozen that was complemented by a handful of free throws by Bryl Alegre, while MHS utilized a more collaborative effort, scoring with six different sets of hands.

Then Rays point man Aranda pulled on a 7-point string to start the second period and then distributed to his comrades as the group clung to the lead, 43-41, at halftime. MHS' John Darag sank two 3-pointers for 12 markers in frame two.

The second half unfolded nothing like the former as SSHS ran away from its rivals, 64-53, in the third period.

Aranda went off for 11 points in the surge and the team never looked back in the final exchange.

Feria came up big in the payoff period and logged 9 points to safe-guard the victory.

Aranda led three teammates in double figures with 25 points, while Darag topped the box score with 26 in defeat.

In the junior match, MHS trotted in front, 14-6, in the first quarter off 7 markers by big man Shane Deleon Guerrero and managed to cling to the lead at midpoint, 25-19, as

Jun Fidelino and Kobe Mendoza paced MHS in the first quarter of the freshmen game with a couple of baskets apiece for an early, 11-7, advantage and a handful of checks by their teammate Justin Loza in the second quarter preserved a 19-12 favor at the half.

MHS was then stood up in the third quarter and managed just one bucket as SSHS' mainstay Art Borromeo put his Rays within a possession heading into crunch time, 18-21.

At that point Borromeo had accounted for all but 4 of SSHS' offense, but he was held to just a basket down the home stretch as the Dolphins came together as a group and easily secured the win.

Five MHS players contrib-

uted points in the last period though it was four quarters of tough defense that won the game. Fidelino led the Dolphins in scoring with 9 points.

Weekend Sports

The week belonged to the 2012 top athletes and officials honored during the NMASA Annual Sports Banquet last Wednesday at the Kanoa Resort.

Honored for their accomplishments last year were athletes Mikayla Lopez, Clay McCullough-Stearns, Todd Montgomery, and Lia Rangamar and officials Jeff Race and Laurie Peterka.

Lopez was named 2012 NMASA/TSL Foundation Female Student Athlete of the Year for dominating local tennis competitions and winning in the 2012 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam and in the 2012 Pacific Oceania

Junior Championships in Fiji. Clay McCullough-Stearns took the 2012 NMASA/TSL Foundation Male Student Athlete of the Year award after leading his team to championships and winning MVP plums in both the COPSSA and MISO volleyball leagues and also ruling beach volleyball events.

Montgomery claimed the NMASA Male Athlete of the Year award for winning two championships in the PIC

tournament, while Rangamar earned the NMASA Female Athlete of the Year citation for her record performance in the Oceania Regional Championships in Australia.

Jeff Race got his fourth Coach of the Year award, notching the 2012 plum for leading the CNMI's successful campaigns in the NPQ and POJC. Peterka was named Sports Administrator of the Year for her works with Northern Mariana Islands

Volleyball Association, which organizes tournaments for local athletes, especially for the youth, and provides assistance to interscholastic leagues.

Sharing the center stage with the 2012 top athletes and officials last week was baseball and softball great Reno Celis, who was inducted to the 2013 class of the CNMI Hall of Fame.

Meanwhile, three competitions opened last week.

Week 1 of the 2013 White

Coconut Tennis Classic kicked off at the American Memorial Park, while the U15 and U18 divisions of the 2013 NMIFA Youth Spring League started both at the Hopwood Junior High School Field and Oleai Sports Complex Field. The 2013 season of the Saipan Little League Baseball also opened last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Ongoing competitions on Saipan also continued last week.

In the NMIVA Sunset Co-ed Beach Volleyball Tournament, Dig This, Beaches and Vacos downed separate foes at the sand courts of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan to advance to the finals.

Over at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court, the Sexy Boys and Adobo kept their undefeated record in Division B of the DLX/Anchor Strong caging, while action in Division A resumed.

Still in basketball, Marianas High School swept Kagman High School in the MISO caging, winning the varsity and junior varsity games at the MHS Gymnasium.

At the Garapan Basketball Court, Insider and Yuman Construction defeated separate foes in the Blue Haus caging.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Luther Lizama goes for a backhand return during his and Colin Ramsey's mixed-up doubles game against Steve Nutting and Robbie Schorr in Week 1 of the 2013 White Coconut Tennis Classic at the AMP tennis courts.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Seiya Eda makes a return against Tommy Choi during their boys U18 singles game in Week 1 of the 2013 White Coconut Tennis Classic at the AMP tennis courts.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dig This, Beaches' Tyce Mister returns to their foe during a playoff game in the NMIVA Sunset Co-ed Beach Volleyball Tournament last week at the sand courts of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CNMI Hall of Fame inductee Reno Celis, second left, poses with his wife and baseball's Rose Igital and Tony Rogolifoi during the NMASA Annual Sports Banquet held at Kanoa Resort last Wednesday.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, Mikayla Lopez, Jeff Race, Laurie Peterka, and Clay McCullough-Stearns pose with their trophies after the NMASA Annual Sports Banquet held at Kanoa Resort last Wednesday.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
LD Prime's Toby Fleming, right, blocks a Sexy Boys player during their Division B game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The Kagman Ford Rangers pose for a group photo during the opening of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield last week.



Ross beats
Evans in dunk
contest

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports



Pistorius' family
strongly denies
murder charge

PAGE 25

28 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Braves off to strong start in Big League



The Braves' Peter Lieto rears back for a swing during last Thursday's Big League matchup against the Ol'Aces at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Big League Braves bagged two wins out of the gate as the 2013 season of the Saipan Little League entered its third week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Finals showdowns in Coconut Classic today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bragging rights will be at stake in the 2013 White Coconut Tennis Classic today as finalists collide in seven singles divisions title matches at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

In the boys U12 finale at 11am, it will be Joshua Abragan versus Vincent Tudela. Abragan took the finals berth in the upper half of the draw after beating Tony Atalig in the quarterfinals last Saturday, 8-6, and stunning top seed Steven Goodwin in the semis yesterday, 9-8. Tudela notched the other finals ticket after an 8-1 victory over Haruya Eda in the quarters and a semis upset, too, over No. 2 seed Robbie Schorr, 8-6.

In the U15, it will be a battle between Top 2 seeds Dylan Ackerman and Michael Ren. The top-ranked Ackerman advanced to the finals, follow-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Vincent Tudela, seen here going for a backhand return during his and Daniel Park's mixed-up doubles semis match versus Isabel Heras and Amami Sakano yesterday at the AMP tennis courts, advanced to the finals of the boys U12 singles in the 2013 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Saturday.

The Braves won its debut against the IT&E Fielders, 6-5, in eight innings last Feb. 8 then followed that up with a 4-1 victory against the Ol'Aces last Thursday.

In other results, defending Big League champion Padres, formerly the Hustlers, along with the 2012 junior champion Red Sox also triumphed last week, as did the Junior League's Enforcers and X-clusive clubs.

The Padres defeated the Ol'Aces on opening day last Feb. 7; the Red Sox bested the Falcons, 8-2 on Feb. 9; the Enforcers downed

See BRAVES on Page 26

ing his semis win against Colin Ramsey last Saturday, 8-2, while Ren prevailed in the other semis pairing over Moris Vilanueva, 8-4.

Aditya Rai and Gang Min Kim square off for the boys U10 crown after downing separates foes last Saturday. Rai eliminated Sean Lee, 6-1, while Kim ousted Rintaro Miyawaki, 6-2. Lee and Miyawaki collides in the battle for third place today.

In the boys U18 singles, the lone female entry in the field—Thea Minor—challenges Amami Sakano. The second-seeded Minor made it to the finals after downing Tommy Choi in the semis last Saturday, 8-3, while Sakano pulled off an 8-0 upset over top-ranked Rafael Jones.

Minor is also the only female player entered in the men's open singles and she also booked a finals ticket and faces Raj Rai today at 8am. Minor, who topped

See FINALS on Page 26

Rays rout Dolphins in varsity tilt

» MHS takes JV and freshmen tiffs

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays outshone the Marianas High School Dolphins in the varsity set last Friday, though

the latter's regiments salvaged victories in the junior varsity and freshmen divisions as the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization's 2013 high school boys basketball season continued last Friday at the MHS Gymnasium.

See RAYS on Page 26



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Southern High School Manta Rays' Emerson Feria converts a nifty put back against the Marianas High School Dolphins in their MISO boys varsity matchup last Friday at the MHS Gymnasium.

Easy wins for Docomo, Adobo

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Docomo Pacific and Adobo routed their respective foes in the DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League last

Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

In the Division A pairing, Docomo Pacific pounded Cell Pro, 77-57, while Adobo also cruised to a 20-point victory over SuSupe in Division B, 82-62.

Docomo improved to an even

See EASY on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Docomo's Sheen Metran, center, squeezes in through the defense of Cell Pro's Vince Iglesias, left, and Marlon De Dios during the second quarter of their Division A game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.